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THE INNOVATION NATION:
Aussie innovators create the future

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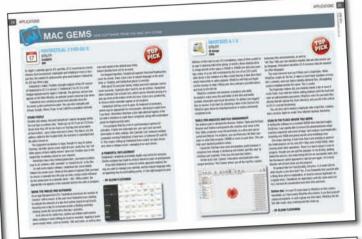






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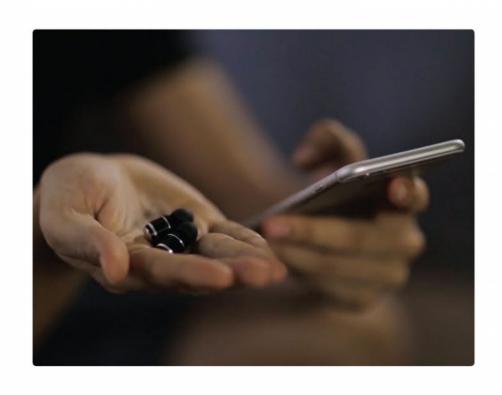
THE INNOVATION NATION

Aussie innovators punch above their weight delivering the future. Anthony Caruana looks at the world of tomorrow.

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WHICH APPLE WATCH?

We look at the options to help you decide which Apple Watch is right for you.











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Anthony Caruana

egacy. Continuity. Respect. Future.

These are words that have been at the front of my mind as I take the reins at Macworld Australia. As I write this, I'm sitting on a plane tapping away on a number of stories for the website and this issue of our magazine.

I say 'our' magazine because I'm not just the editor. I've been a long time reader. In fact, it was as a reader that I first approached Matthew JC Powell, who was the editor when I first subscribed to Macworld Australia. He took a chance on me, publishing my first story in April 2005.

Since then, there have been three other editors and I've contributed to all but one issue of the magazine. And while I've seen a lot of changes, I'm really looking forward to the next phase of Apple and Macworld Australia's journey.

I won't be making massive changes. I'll be working hard to ensure we have as much local content in the magazine and website as possible.

Some of the things you'll notice are we'll be publishing stories to the website on a more regular schedule with news stories in the morning, usually each hour, with other stories such as features, help and tutorials in the afternoons. We're also aiming for more locally written stories. So, while we'll still have some great content from our colleagues in the US

and other parts of the world, we're aiming to increase the proportion of homegrown Mac news.

Over the coming weeks, I'll be reaching out to Mac user groups around the country with a view to giving them all a little bit of airtime on the Macworld Australia website. The great thing about Macworld is it's more than a magazine – it's a community. We want to help that community to grow and become more vibrant.

Looking ahead, Adam Turner's round-up of streaming video services is a sign of the future. I'm a big fan of the local Netflix service and will be trying out the other services Adam has looked at. I've been examining some great local innovations, seeking out what the best and brightest minds in the country are creating.

In Jono's last editorial in the May 2015 issue, he said he was leaving Macworld with a heavy heart. Mine is buoyant and excited.

I'm looking forward to building on Macworld Australia's long and rich history as we write the next chapter in this great publication's living history.



STAFF PICKS

What app do you wish someone would create?



ANTHONY CARUANA

I want a single app that pulls

together all of my activity, nutrition and other health metrics – one app to rule my health!



MADELEINE SWAIN

I need an app that works across

all of the devices for both of my children to kill everything dead at 9pm on the dot, unless a parent puts in an override.



JAMUNA RAJ

I wish there was an app that is

a reverse of eBay. Buyers post what they want and sellers compete by bidding with the lowest prices they can offer. I'd be glued to that app all the time.



MONIQUE BLAIR

I wish someone would invent an

x-ray app, so I could scan the room for my keys and wallet whenever I misplace them.

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Introducing Blackmagic URSA, the world's first user upgradeable 4K digital film camera!

Blackmagic URSA is the world's first high end digital film camera designed to revolutionize workflow on set. Built to handle the ergonomics of large film crews as well as single person use, URSA has everything built in, including a massive 10 inch fold out on set monitor, large user upgradeable Super 35 global shutter 4K image sensor, 12G-SDI and internal dual RAW and ProRes recorders.



Super 35 Size Sensor

URSA is a true professional digital film camera with a 4K sensor, global shutter and an incredible 12 stops of dynamic range. The wide dynamic range blows

away regular video cameras or even high end broadcast cameras, so you get dramatically better images that look like true digital film. The extra large Super 35 size allows for creative shallow depth of field shooting plus RAW and ProRes means you get incredible quality!



Blackmagic URSA features dual recorders so you never need to stop recording to change media. That's critical if you are shooting an historical event,

important interview or where you just cannot stop shooting! Simply load an empty CFast card into the second recorder and when the current card is full, the recording will continue onto the second card, allowing you to change out the full card and keep shooting!



User Upgradeable Sensor

Blackmagic URSA features a modular camera turret that can be removed by unscrewing 4 simple bolts! The camera turret includes the sensor, lens mount and lens control connections

and can be upgraded in the future when new types of sensors are developed. This means your next camera will be a fraction of the cost of buying a whole new camera! Choose professional PL mount, popular EF mount and more!



Built in On Set Monitoring!

Say goodbye to bulky on set monitors because you get a massive fold out 10 inch screen built into Blackmagic URSA, making it the world's

biggest viewfinder! The screen is super bright and features an ultra wide viewing angle. URSA also includes two extra 5" touch screens on both sides of the camera showing settings such as format, frame rate, shutter angle plus scopes for checking levels, audio and focus!





\$7,755



Lenses and accessories shown are not included



HAVE YOUR SAY

LETTER OF THE MONTH



APPLE TOO PRICEY

I am a thirteen-year-old student who loves many Apple products. I am already fortunate to own some new and second-hand Apple items. Often I have saved up a number of birthday and Christmas gifts to buy each of these things. But the one item I was most excited about was the Apple Watch.

Sadly, just when I thought I would have enough for the watch, I looked up the Australian prices and felt very disappointed. I feel that Apple now cares more about making its products for the cheapest price and then selling them for the biggest profit. It also seems very unfair that people in the US will pay less for the watch than customers in Australia.

Apple should put out prices that are affordable and reasonable. I'm now concerned about whether it will continue to make prices unreasonable with all its other products and I sense that with the Apple Watch Edition, which can cost up to \$24,000, more people will steal them and even steal the Apple Pay function as well. I also feel that Apple products are now just for the wealthy and, if it continues like this, I may even go to Samsung.

James E

Pricing is always a big issue. Comparing Australian and US pricing isn't as straightforward as multiplying with exchange rates. While Australian pricing includes GST by law, US prices don't include local taxes. For example, while in the US recently, I bought shoes that had a price tag of \$35, but ended up closer to \$40 once the local tax was added at the register. Also, Apple's Australian pricing has to cover fluctuations in the exchange rate. For a while, local pricing was better than the US, but some recent changes have shifted the balance with some products.

IN-APP PURCHASE PAIN

Having an almost five-year-old daughter, the search is often on for suitable games, entertainment and educational material for her to use on our iPad.

Lots of things look to be good until you really look under the hood and into the in-app purchases that are on offer.

One example that I saw today, *Angry Birds Transformers*, a 'free' game with the following in app purchases (in \$NZ):

Handful of Gems \$6.49
Box of Gems \$24.99
Chest of Gems \$64.99
Crate of Gems \$124.99
Good grief... \$124.99 for an in-app

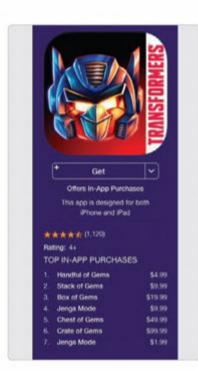
The thing that really annoys me about this is not the in-app purchase system, nor really the exorbitant price, but the fact that without actually downloading and installing the software you cannot find out anything about how playable the game is without having to buy these extras.

I personally think that there should be a requirement for disclosure on how much of the game can actually be achieved before having to buy these add-ons.

I know that software developers need to make money and I agree with that, but I would much rather pay a reasonable amount for an app that doesn't have any in-app purchases than fall into the trap of getting one of these 'free' apps that are more or less unusable without having to continually buy things to keep playing the game.

Am I being too black and white about this or is this something that others worry about too?

Jamie



The free app economy has been a great boon for consumers but, at some point, developers need to make a buck so they can eat and have a roof over their head. Looking at the App Store on my Mac, I can see a list of 'Top In-App Purchases' for some free games. The same information is available on my iPhone, although I need to scroll down past the game description to see it.

Hope that helps.

BRING BACK THE ARROWS

My first computer ever was a Mac 170 PowerBook, a laptop. (Hah! That's if you like to have a suitcase full of bricks on your lap.) How I loved it. It had a tiny little black and white screen, and a few useful programs. There was Windows 5.1 and a graphics program called Lightning Paint that toggled individual pixels between black and white. With them, I created a Calendar Diary, which I published and sold, filled with essays and illustrated with cartoons.

After that, I progressed to a tangerine iMac, then a big silver box,

the first 64-bit MacPro, and now I have one of the sleek, darkly gleaming MacPros. Along the way, there have been numerous operating systems, progressively (and usually) adding functionality.

Apple has always distinguished itself from its competitors by emphasising the beautiful appearance of its devices and the ease-of-use of its software, both laudable and very attractive to customers. Long may it continue to be so. But...

I think Apple is getting carried away with the minimalism. It seems to think devices are more beautiful when they are more minimal. Well, maybe they are, but not at the expense of functionality. Something that has really bugged me during the last few iterations of the OS is the loss of the little scrolling arrows. You know, one little arrow at each end of a scroll bar, that can let you progress in small increments.

Did Apple think that because the arrows were tiny little things they could be disposed of and no one would notice? The trouble is, those little arrows punch way above their weight. They are absolutely vital for navigating around a very large, zoomed-in view of an image, or trying to read a very large pdf document, like the instruction manual for any major application. Did nobody at Apple try reading a big pdf without scroll arrows before they released that version? It's maddening: no matter how carefully you tap or drag the scroll bar, you get zoomed far beyond your target. Back and forth, back and forth, until your chair is surrounded by piles of torn-out hair.

Please, Apple. You used to have these arrows. Windows still has them. At least, make it an option in System Preferences to display them or hide them. It can't be that hard, and I think you would be pleasing a lot more Mac users than just me.

Pat Scott

- Letters should be emailed to editor@macworld.com.au with a subject header of 'Letter to the Editor' or by post to: Macworld Australia Mailbox, 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205. Please include your full name and address, including state or territory.
- Comments on stories or Forum posts on www.macworld.com.au are also eligible for the prize.
- We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will.
- Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference.



This month's prize to the Macworld Australia reader who has submitted what we think is the most interesting letter is an 8ware 6-Port Desktop USB Charging Station, worth \$54.95, from Anyware.

The 8ware charging station will clean up your charging habits by offering three 2.4Amp USB ports and three 1.0Amp USB ports in the one place and from the one power point.

With current, voltage, short circuit and temperature protections, it is ideal for the home, office or travel.

www.anyware.com.au

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4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdirected entries. 6. The best entry/entries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize occurring between the publish date and the date the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by email. 10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11. The collect property of the Promoter. 11. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information rided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529)

HOT STUFF A selection of Apple, Mac and iOS news from Macworld.com.au

APPLE WATCH APPS - TIPPED FOR RAPID **GROWTH**

It's early days, but some interesting data is coming out regarding apps for the Apple Watch.

Apple already dominates the smartwatch market. IDC expects Apple Watch shipments to exceed 15 million this year - accounting for over 60 percent of the overall smartwatch market.

App Annie reports that there are already over 3000 Apple Watch apps in the App Store. "For a device that most developers don't even own yet, that's indicative of an enthusiastic developer base," says the site.

Despite Apple making a big deal of the Apple Watch's potential as a fitness device, App Annie says just seven percent of the apps it has counted appear in the Health and Fitness category - a marked difference from what it sees in the Android market.

The general catch-all 'utility' category accounts for 12 percent of the apps with Catalogues, Books, Weather, Photo and Video, and Medical garnering just two percent share of the App Store app count each.

What's interesting about this data is that we're dealing with a platform that has only been available for a couple of weeks and no one has really fully understood yet.

When Apple released the iPhone, it was in response to a problem that hadn't been solved by any of the incumbents in the market. Before the iPhone, smartphones were awful to use.

The iPad resolved other problems. It's important to remember the iPad wasn't the first tablet on the market. But it was the first to find acceptable compromises in terms of size, power, weight and capability.

The Apple Watch is a different kettle of fish. Although there have been smartwatches on the market for some time - the SPOT watch was developed over a

decade ago - they have never captured mainstream attention.

Clearly this is the market opportunity Apple is seeking to exploit. If it is successful, this represents a significant growth opportunity.

APPLE WATCH NOT PROTECTED FROM THEFT

For the last few years, iOS devices have been protected by Activation Lock. This feature means a thief can't activate a stolen iOS device. The Apple Watch has no such protection, however. If your Apple Watch is lost or stolen, it can be activated by whoever has it and configured as if it's a brand new device.

Although the Apple Watch has a passcode option, it only protects your data. Pressing down on the side button of the Apple Watch brings up the power down options. If you force-press the screen, an option to Erase All Content and Settings appears.

If the Apple Watch is wiped like this, it can be paired with a new device.

It's not unusual for Apple to leave expected features out of new products the original iPhone lacked the ability to cut, copy and paste text. However, it seems to be a significant oversight to omit the Activation Lock security feature from their newest product.

Hopefully, Watch OS 1.1 will include Activation Lock.



THE NETFLIX TAX -WILL IT MATTER?

A federal budget was handed down in mid May, containing several controversial measures. But the one that will affect many of us is the so-called Netflix tax. More accurately, it's the enforcement of the GST on digital downloads. And it's expected to raise about \$350 million.

As well as Netflix, it's expected the GST will be applied to other services such as Airbnb, Uber, Steam and others.

Prior to the budget announcement, Treasurer Joe Hockey said, "What we're doing is going to digital providers overseas and saying, 'Can you apply the GST to the products you provide into Australia?' They [technology companies] are agreeable to it. It's a tax collected and they remit it back to the country where that [GST] occurs."

In a completely unsurprising statement, Foxtel's group director of corporate affairs, Bruce Meagher, said, "The Government's move to enforce GST for the supply of digital content services is the right one. The digital marketplace is an increasingly competitive space and it's critical to ensure that all players that do business in Australia do so on a level field, with no one player advantaged through tax loopholes."

So, what would the impact of the GST be on Netflix?

Netflix currently costs between \$8.99 and \$14.99 per month depending on the number of screens you plan to use the service with and whether you like SD (standard definition), HD (high definition) or Ultra HD viewing.

In contrast, Presto offers either its TV or Movies channels for \$9.99 per month. Stan costs \$10 per month.

So, if Netflix's entry-level offer gets a 10 percent price hike for the GST, it will be priced at the same level as its two main competitors.



That means the services will be competing on the quantity and quality of their content.

In our view, Netflix's reputation and its access to a global catalogue of TV shows and movies will continue to give it an edge in the market.

WHY YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS AN APP

If you think that mobile apps are solely for big name brands like Commonwealth Bank, Starbucks, Domino's – think again. Small- and mid-size businesses are following the mobile trend, understanding that an effective mobile strategy involves more than just a mobile-friendly website.

All businesses have information they need to collect and share. There are millions of processes happening each day. In fact, you'll notice that many of the small businesses you interact with in your everyday life have their own dedicated mobile app — be it the café you frequent or the beauty spa. These companies are ahead of the game when it comes to taking their marketing to the next level. If you're still sceptical of how mobile apps can benefit your business, here are a few reasons why you should get on the mobile app bandwagon.

Organisations are saving money converting manual processes to

mobile apps. Canvas is a cloud-based software service that creates apps for smart devices. It conducted an annual survey to see how businesses and organisations are using mobile apps to better collect, share and learn from their data. Of those companies tracking their cost savings 17 percent saved between \$25,000 and \$100,000 annually switching to mobile apps, while 81 percent indicated cost savings between \$1000 and \$25,000.

Be visible to customers at all times.

Statistics show that many Australians spend as much as 18 hours online each day. While probably only a couple of those hours are used on the phone, it doesn't change the fact that each user has to unlock and scan their device for the apps they're looking for. Even if your app is downloaded but not used frequently, it can still be an advantage to your company, as our mind unconsciously records every image and text it comes across. Businesses hypothetically are still visible to customers everyday – even if it happens unnoticed.

A direct marketing channel. Apps serve many functions. They can provide general information, prices, booking forms, search features, user accounts, news feeds and more.

One of the biggest advantages of having a mobile app is all the information you want to provide to your customers is right at their fingertips.

Mobile apps can use push notifications to send updates that let you know something new is going on within one of your apps. With Facebook, you may get a push notification to tell you that someone tagged you in a post or sent you a message. Your app may send push notifications for any reason you specify. Push notifications occur for various reasons, but there's one thing they all have in common – people read them.

Through push notifications you're getting even closer to a direct interaction, and can easily remind customers about your products and services.

The Canvas survey also reported 64 percent of businesses see value in integrating core business applications – such as Dropbox, PayPal, Salesforce and QuickBooks – with mobile devices and tools.

HOT STUFF A selection of Apple, Mac and iOS news from Macworld.com.au



Your business can streamline manual processes, eliminate paperwork, transform the way you collect data, as well as share and learn from your business information. Mobile apps can be a way of staying closer to your customers, and improving your business strategy and it is all just a 'fingertip' away.

WHEN SECURITY PRODUCTS DON'T **ACTUALLY MAKE** YOU SAFER

I hate to poke holes in good faith efforts to improve the integrity and security of the data of individuals and businesses, but, in just the last week, I've seen three separate efforts that each attempt to fix a problem, but only solve a top layer. The underlying defects remain, and they're not at all the fault of those companies.

However, the road to hell is built on good intentions, and the best way to get off that highway is to examine all efforts with a steely glint.

In April, Google released the Password Alert extension for its Chrome browser. The extension captures and transforms your password when you log in to any Google site, storing it in a non-recoverable format against which other password entries may be checked.

Then, whenever you use your browser to enter that password at any non-Google site, the extension warns you that you've been phished, and recommends immediately changing your password for the Google account. This requires that you use a unique password for any Google account. Otherwise, you'll see this warning on any site into which you submit a login with the same password.

Google's Chrome extension warns you after you've submitted a password that's also used for a Google-run site.

It's a clever idea, although it has the cow's-out-of-the-barn problem of warning you post submission rather than saying, "Whoa – you're sure you want to submit this?" (It would require rather more vigilance and CPU cycles to do that.)

But it's false security. While it can aid both naive and sophisticated users, even the savviest are fooled when they're presented with phishing pages that are expertly made to resemble legitimate sites. Researchers quickly found workarounds - many workarounds - to Password Alert. Some bypasses may be impossible to prevent, thus providing a subtle false positive signal to users that everything's OK.

Any warning is better than none, but false security can lull people into letting their guard down, too. Google will continue to improve the extension, but it may be unable to make it robust enough to rely upon.

I received a flurry of email recently about Soverin, a new email service that was going to be revolutionary around customer data and privacy.

What's different? Nothing technical. It has founded its enterprise in opposition to Gmail, more or less, pledging through contract and privacy agreements to retain and use as little of its customers' personal information as possible, and definitely not sell details (even in aggregate) to marketers or display advertising. It's a paid service at a moderate price.

While its privacy policy is exhaustive and welcome, Soverin is using a standard encrypted IMAP service for retrieving email. This is effective in protecting data in transit if implemented well, but mail residing on its servers will be available to anyone at the company and any law enforcement agents or crackers who gain access. (It encrypts email backups with a unique user code, which is smart, but email in IMAP storage has to be unencrypted.)

The firm is based in the Netherlands and has located its servers there, too, so Soverin is taking advantage of more stringent laws found in Europe related to



data privacy than are present in almost any other part of the world. Still, I've been subscribing to Fastmail for many years, and the difference between the paid Fastmail service and Soverin appears to be a marketing approach based on server geography.

The folks at MacPaw make a variety of useful utilities, including disk degunkers that find and remove unneeded files and duplicates, some of which may affect system performance in the right circumstances. (It's rarer that a file slows your computer down, and more likely that a drive that's nearly full reduces performance as OS X moves parts of files around and writes temporary or swap files to disk.)

But I have mixed feelings about its just released, free OS X/Windows cross-platform compatibility file-encryption software, Encrypto. There's nothing wrong with the approach, the interface, compatibility or its simplicity – rather, that it's trying to solve the wrong problem in the right way.

The software lets you pick a password of any complexity and then also provide a hint that can be publicly viewed by anyone with the Encrypto software on either platform. The hint is supposed to provide a jog to memory that a recipient can use to decrypt a file.

There is a dearth of simple, powerful file-encryption software, so I want to like Encrypto. But the hint part is highly problematic. Providing a hint, however obscure, reduces the universe of potential passwords, because the hint has to be a clue that a recipient can transform into something meaningful.

Encrypto lets you set a strong password and then a hint that's shown to the recipient to jog their memory.

I can guarantee you that if my hint to an old friend is "that terrible joke about Greek clothing" they would come up with "Euripdes, Eumenides". But so, too, would many others – it's an old, old joke – and it would provide the cues for a small universe of combinations of words to be tried, should another party get a hold of the file.

If the file isn't important enough to worry about a malicious third-party hacking into it, then why use encryption? If it is, then why use a method that's guaranteed to have a highly exposed attack surface?

This problem has been solved in many ways by many parties, but it almost always involves an ecosystem. Kudos to MacPaw for trying to avoid having a public-key or other encryption infrastructure as a requirement. It's dead simple, and I love that.

But it needs to figure out a method to allow people to use strong passwords that

are associated with simple hints that no third party could ever associate – like a code book, in which a word like maryjane means to use password vjvkv4iQu2sZ[u0. Having a local component that allows two parties to generate a code list that would be encrypted and stored locally, and could be shared in some very careful way, would offer the best of both worlds.

Even a shared secret used for the purposes of increasing entropy – making it vastly hard to use brute force to find a password match – would turn this nifty idea into something that truly improved security.

Right direction, wrong approach.

For users to achieve an end to fear of routine or unimpeded interception, the tools provided have to be strong enough by default – no additional management should be required. That's why iMessage has done so well: the end-to-end encryption is strong and effortless. But iMessage isn't appropriate for all kinds of data transmission, and some people would prefer not to rely on Apple's technology and assurances.

This is all in the right direction, but more pragmatism about what's truly being offered and how it's being described is required as well.

Wind Turbine between Bute and Lochiel, South Australia

This month's winner, Emanuel Raniolo, is a medical scientist from SA



Regular Macworld Australia subscriber Emanuel Raniolo normally uses his Sony DSC-HX60V travel zoom camera to shoot pictures through a 30x zoom lens, which is capable of GPS tagging.

Raniolo is a medical scientist who performs specialised analysis of blood, bone marrow and other body tissues and fluids, providing diagnostic information on haematological blood disorders. He has also been involved in the provision and manufacture of stem cells that are used to treat leukaemia and lymphoma.

On Good Friday this year, during an annual visit to his friends Gary and Faye at their rural property, he used his iPhone 5 to shoot this wind turbine. It's one of 90 that form the Snowtown II extension to the Snowtown wind farm in the mid-north of South Australia, around 150 kilometres north of Adelaide.

"It was an almost cloudless sky, clear blue with the occasional wispy white cloud. The contrast of the deep blue sky against the white tower and occasional cloud was well captured by the iPhone camera," says Raniolo. "The site was devoid of noise apart from the sound of wind, and the regular whoosh of the blades as they rotated and swept above us in a repeated rotational arc."

Raniolo says there was no editing or post-production of the image – what we see is the photo in its unadulterated captured state.

"If I need to edit any of my photos, I usually use the App editing tools that are incorporated with iPhoto and its next iteration, Photos. That is generally all that I need to perfect the image and take it to the next level."

In iSnap, we're on the lookout for some of the best photographs being taken with iOS devices. Submit your favourites to macworld@macworld.com.au for your chance to be featured in the gallery below. Each month's winner will win a prize and appear on this page!

This month's prize is a Mount and a Flex from iStabilizer.

Secure your smartphone to virtually any surface with the iStabilizer Flex. Secure your iPhone to a car headrest, tree branch, pole, fence, tripod, desk, kitchen countertop or anything else you can think of. Just a tiny accessory to make a huge impact in how you use your smartphone, the iStabilizer Flex is a favourite accessory for iPhone users everywhere.

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THE INNOVATION NATION:

AUSSIE INNOVATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS ARE CREATING THE FUTURE. BY ANTHONY CARUANA.

nnovation – it's a word that conjures up myriad images of cool products, disruptive companies and flamboyant personalities who inspire us to 'think different' as Apple used to say.

The reality is far different. The perceived overnight success of companies like our own Cochlear with its bionic ear, or Uber and Airbnb with what they've done for travel and accommodation, or Elon Musk's Tesla for the use of renewable energy, comes from many years of hard work and even failure.

What many companies call innovation is often little more than incremental improvement on something we already have. Although Apple's original iPhone was certainly an innovation – a marked leap from other products of its ilk – subsequent versions have taken what the original iPhone delivered and built on it. That's not to say the most recent iPhone isn't far superior to the first one, but if you look at each iteration of the iPhone, you can see that it incrementally improves on the one before.

Gideon Kowadlo, a director and co-founder of local app development company Outware Mobile, says, "Innovation is such a catch-all phrase. It's made up of so many sub areas. From being creative and innovative with your application, you can address whole new segments of the market and companies can reach their customers in ways they couldn't in the past."

One of the things that is clear about innovation is the connection with disruption. When a truly innovative product, app or service is released, it fundamentally changes everyone's perceptions. And, in many cases, it alters market structures.

The app economy that was created when Apple launched the App Store for the iPhone completely changed the way software was developed and delivered. It was a huge innovation. In the past, apps for mobile devices were sold through multiple marketplaces or directly to devices. Prices were generally higher and there was little quality control.

Today, apps are easily loaded, low cost and easily managed. And the pool of developers creating software has greatly expanded.

Innovation goes beyond apps. And Australia leads the world in many fields. It may be hard to believe, but Wi-Fi is a local invention, created by scientists from CSIRO (the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation). It's fair to say there has been some dispute over the years about CSIRO's involvement in the invention of Wi-Fi, but the fact remains that the organisation has received close to half a billion dollars in settlements when it has defended its patents in US courts.

SUN PROTECTION BY CORAL

Australian innovation extends into just about every field you can imagine. For example, scientists at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) were the first to discover that Great Barrier Reef coral had its own natural sun screening ability.

Local aromatherapy company Larissa Bright Australia teamed up with AIMS to convert this natural method of coping with exposure to the intensive UV (ultraviolet) rays from Queensland's sunshine into a safe and effective sunscreen for human use.

Supported through a Department of Industry grant program, AIMS and Larissa

Bright spent two years adapting the complex molecular make-up of the coral's natural sunscreen filter and modifying it to create a single molecule that is resistant to both UVA and UVB.

The new UV filters are clear and colourless, so they can be used in any cream emulsion and are expected to be available to consumers across the globe within five years.

GETTING SOCIAL

There are about 13.5 million Facebook accounts and over 2.7 million Twitter accounts in Australia. And for many companies, the insight that can be gleaned about customers from that data is marketing gold. However, monitoring and analysing that data requires a massive effort. But, as Tony Stark says in the most recent *Avengers* movie, searching for a needle in a haystack is easy if you have a magnet.

Researchers from CSIRO have developed a suite of tools that act as magnets for extracting those needles. And those tools have been used to create some interesting apps.

Governments can use Vizie to track what is happening on social media in order to respond to customer queries and concerns in real time.

Vizie uses natural language processing and text analysis algorithms to group content by topic. This gives social media managers immediate insight into the major issues that they can expect to deal with on any given day. From there, they're able to drill down to channels and individual topics for more information, such as individual posts. This allows them to respond to queries, combat potentially misleading rumours, and track trends with very little manual processing.

Although the initial applications of Vizie are focused on government agencies, there are obviously broader commercial applications that CSIRO is looking at as it seeks to commercialise the application.

It's not all about tracking the needs of clients though. Social media monitoring can be used to better channel efforts for healthcare

Many public health programs use statistics that are up to five years old. And that data represents mere snapshots of a particular time and place. In contrast, there are thousands of updates on social media every second.

Amazon Web Services and CSIRO have partnered up to develop a web-based tool for the Black Dog Institute, called We Feel. The service aims to find out if social media can accurately map our emotions.

We Feel uses natural language analysis to review about 27 million tweets each day. Users are allowed to visually explore emotions on a minute-by-minute time scale that goes back days or weeks.

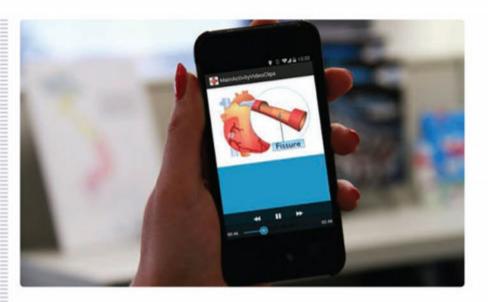
Importantly, the program doesn't only tell us how we are feeling, but also allows users to map those feelings against other variables, such as the weather or the news. It's also allowing the Black Dog Institute to evaluate the efficacy of public health campaigns.

Social media has become, for many people, how they get their news. As traditional news channels such as television and newspapers continue to fall in popularity, more of us get our news via our social feeds.

Emergency Situation Awareness (ESA) software, developed by CSIRO, uses historical word occurrences from past disasters and looks at the statistical incidence of words used on Twitter to describe events.

ESA can reveal emerging topics and flag them for investigation and to quickly alert a user when a disaster is being broadcast. It also stores complete Twitter stream information and allows post-event analyses.

This isn't just pie in the sky research. Recently, the ESA software was able to give the Queensland Department of Community Safety early warning of



a grass fire at Cloncurry in outback Queensland. The early notification gave crisis coordinators time to prepare their response while waiting for official confirmation. This meant the evacuation plan could be prepared providing precious extra time to the emergency management workers on the ground.

GETTING AND STAYING HEALTHY

Over the last couple of years, the number of fitness trackers and other healthenhancing devices on the market has exploded. But innovation in health has gone much further.

For example, Telstra's MyHealthPoint works with a number of measurement devices developed by Entra Health Systems. These include Bluetooth-enabled glucometers, scales, thermometers, bloodpressure monitors and oximeters.

When the devices are used, they automatically connect to customised home routers and send readings automatically to the patient's doctor.

This means doctors have access to trend information in real-time, so that they can receive alerts when there's a problem. If a patient with diabetes experiences a slow increase in their blood sugar levels or an acute hypoglycaemic episode, the doctor would be aware before the situation becomes critical.

Similarly, Queensland Health, through the Australian e-Health Research Centre,

has undertaken a clinical trial of an online program developed by CSIRO. The Care Assessment Platform, or CAP, brings the rehabilitation for cardiac patients directly to the patient's home.

For cardiac patients, participation in, adherence to and completion of rehabilitation programs has been greatly enhanced. CAP doesn't replace standard rehabilitation programs. Rather, it offers a more flexible option for eligible patients and greatly minimises reliance on health centre visits.

Even hospital waiting times, something governments of all persuasions have struggled with, can be impacted by the application of technology.

Researchers have found, contrary to what most people believe, emergency patient volumes are predictable and the number of admissions per day can be accurately forecast. Two tools – the Patient Admission and Prediction Tool and the Demand Prediction Analysis Tool – are being used in Queensland and Victoria respectively to make predictions about the spread of diseases such as influenza and better manage hospital facilities.

The tools use historical data to predict patient load, their medical urgency and speciality, and how many will be admitted and discharged. This extends to reducing 'bed block' in emergency departments to minimising waiting time for elective surgery.



SOLVING ENERGY CHALLENGES

When the Tesla was first released in 2008, it was something of a novelty, but with predicted sales of around 40,000 vehicles per year, 10,000 employees and over US\$3 billion in revenues, Elon Musk's baby is growing quickly.

However, while the Tesla cars have shaken up the automotive industry, it's the recently announced Tesla battery system that has the potential to change how we all use energy.

The Tesla Powerwall comes in 7kWh (kilowatts per hour) and 10kWh models priced at US\$3000 and US\$3500 respectively. Multiple Powerwalls can be installed together to create higher capacities. Those prices don't include installation.

One of the challenges many renewable energy systems, such as solar, face is that their energy production is 'lumpy'. That is, there are times when energy production is higher than at other times. The Powerwall will allow you to store the excess energy that's produced, rather than selling it into the grid. The battery system will also allow you to be immune from short blackouts.

Another part of the energy puzzle could be solved by the Solar Generation Forecasting project being run by NICTA (National Information and Communications Technology Australia). It's using sensor data from solar panels on residential houses across Canberra to predict future energy production. Data loggers are being installed on residential solar systems and cameras are being used on the top of buildings to capture information about cloudbursts. This is because weather satellite images are not sufficient to predict solar energy output to the grid at a suburb or even finer local level.

The data that is collected is entered into powerful machine learning algorithms that predict the energy output from solar panels across Canberra. This will assist grid

operators to put measures in place to control fluctuations on the grid as solar panel uptake increases.

Innovations such as these have the capacity to completely change the dynamics of our power production and use.

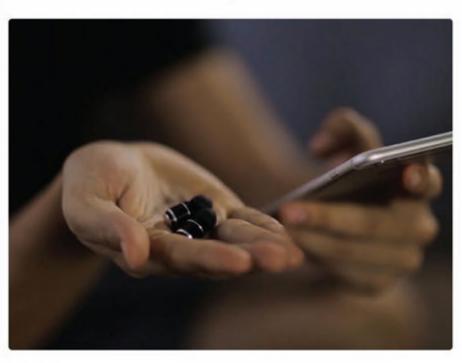
FROM IDEA TO MARKET

The world is full of people with good ideas. But how do you make the leap from idea to successful business?

Australian entrepreneur, Jonathan Zuvela had an idea for a new style of headphones. While Bluetooth headphones aren't new, it is innovative to have a set of earphones where the left and right sides aren't connected to each other. The Nextear wireless earphones resemble a set of earplugs.

Lithgow, New South Wales-based Zuvela launched a campaign on crowdfunding site Indiegogo with a goal of raising US\$20,000. At the halfway mark of the campaign, Zuvela has raised over six times his goal.

The Nextear earphones pair with your mobile device via Bluetooth. They pair as one device and then they communicate with each other through Bluetooth to give stereo sound. You can also just use one earbud at a time, while the other one



charges. The Nextear earphones even have 16GB of integrated flash memory so you can listen to your tunes in places you don't want to take your phone.

THE HACKATHON CAULDRON

If necessity is the mother of invention, hackathons are the birthing suite. By throwing talented people together with limited time, good ideas and a steady supply of coffee and pizza, hackathons create a vibrant creative environment where problems can be solved.

GovHack is a national competition that brings people from government, industry, academia and the general public together. Their goal is to mash up, reuse and remix government data in innovative ways.

During the most recent GovHack, participants were given 36 hours over a weekend to find an innovative way to use government data in a manner that benefits the community. That time isn't just about coming up with an idea. They needed to present the idea, deliver a solution and create the marketing collateral, including pitching the idea for approval, developing the application and producing a promotional video – all within the 36-hour window.

Ravi Nichani from NEC Australia led a team with members from PricewaterhouseCoopers and Synergy. They created an application called Sarbii, which is used by people embarking on potentially risky activities to notify family and friends, and potentially authorities, of their movements. The team won the Western Australia state prize of 'WA Government Prize for Bigger Picture Thinking' and a national award at GovHack.

"We did some investigation and found that in WA, when you go on a fishing trip you use a VMR (volunteer marine rescue) radio on the boat to notify the authorities. Those people work in the daytime, from six or seven in the morning until five in the evening. Every time you notify them, they put it down on paper – they track everything on paper," explains Nichani.

While this works during daylight hours, if someone wants to go on a late night trip, there's no way to let authorities know. So Nichani and his team created an app for iOS and Android devices and a web browser that leverages social identities, so travellers can use their Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn identity.

By eliminating the need for another username or password, they simplified the user experience.

"We wanted to make it simple for the users," says Nichani. "They can check in, using a Facebook-like process. You tell the application your starting location, destination and when you'll be back. You can tell the application what transport





The home for business-minded Apple users on macworld.com.au

While many Mac, iPhone and iPad owners use their devices for purely personal pursuits, there are those who document, record and share as part of the their day to day work. What are the most efficient and effective hardware and software options for your needs? How can you start using it immediately to drive sales, connect with colleagues, create powerful presentations, reduce communication charges?

We examine the latest technology for enterprise users to help you make the best use of your time and resources for your business.

Anthony Caruana - Editor of Macworld Australia

We started this section as we appreciate that technology is a critical foundation for the success of your business.



you're using, whether it's a four-wheel drive or a boat. There's lots of information you can provide."

When the planned return time passes, the user is prompted to either check out, telling everyone they have returned safely, or they can extend the trip. That way, if they're running late, family, friends and authorities know that there's no reason to worry. Also, by using a GPS (global positioning system), the traveller's location is sent to a backend service every 10 minutes or so. In the event that someone goes missing, there's a way of knowing where they should be.

Adopting a similar philosophy, the aforementioned local development firm Outware Mobile ran a mobile health hackathon in May 2015. The developers that attended vied for six different awards.

The Flare Diary won the HISA & Dragon Claw Challenge award. This pain management and monitoring app uses the Apple Watch and an iPhone to prompt users throughout the day to register their pain scale. The data is used to create graphs to track severity and mood. The app also triggers alerts to visit a medical professional when particular time or severity thresholds are breached.

The winner of the Most Innovative award went to Schmooze. This iOS app engages users in a conversation using artificial intelligence to lighten the mood. It simulates a friend to talk to, and helps users work through their problems and emotions. It's like a Turing Test in your pocket.

Uplift won the Popular Choice. This is an iOS game and Facebook community that teaches young people to use a scientifically proven breathing exercise to reduce and manage stress.

THE INNOVATION SECRET SAUCE

So – how does someone become innovative? Is there a secret formula? Or is it a process that anyone can follow?

One thing that's clear from our observations is that many businesses say that they're innovative. But the reality is that they are often doing the same things they've always done, but with some fancier marketing.

A recent research report by McKinsey and Company says, "Innovation is difficult for well-established companies. By and large, they are better executors than innovators, and most succeed less through game-changing creativity than by optimising their existing businesses."

The research identified eight key attributes in innovative companies.

- Does your company regard innovationled growth as critical?
- Is there investment in a coherent portfolio of initiatives that are given a reasonable chance of success?
- Can you develop and launch innovations faster than your competition?
- Do you create new business models that you can defend in the marketplace and that scale?
- Do you have differentiated business, market and technology insights?
- When a new innovation is launched, is it done in a place and at a scale that gives it a fair opportunity to flourish?
- Do you use external networks to your advantage?
- And, finally, and perhaps most importantly, are people motivated,

rewarded and organised to innovate repeatedly?

It's that last point that we see as most important.

Innovation involves risk. In order to differentiate yourself from competitors, you can't do the same things they do. That may mean taking a chance that puts not only time and money at risk, but also your company's reputation.

Arguably, Silicon Valley is the capital of the world when it comes to innovation. Venture capitalists and angel investors are always on the lookout for 'the next big thing'.

Many fledging businesses, powered through their first few years on the blood, sweat and tears of founders, receive massive injections of capital only to fail when their idea doesn't scale or someone else beats them to the punch.

What's interesting is that many socalled overnight success stories come after years of failures and heartache.

The secret, many say, is to fail fast. If an idea, no matter how good it seems, doesn't work out, then it should be abandoned. Rather than continuing to throw good money and effort at the idea, it's better to learn from the experience and move on.





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MAC GEMS NEW SOFTWARE FROM THE MAC APP STORE



FANTASTICAL 2 FOR OS X

UTII ITY **FLEXBITS** \$50

zone and repeat in the default area if they

As Apple's calendar app for iOS and Mac OS X moved across recent releases from inconsistent, inadequate and irritating to more or less just fine, the market for replacements grew and matured. Fantastical for iOS has filled a gap.

Fantastical's maker, Flexibits, brought snippets of the iOS version of Fantastical to OS X in version 1. Fantastical 2 for OS X is a fullfledged replacement for Apple's Calendar. The previous version now appears as the Mini-Window, an optional system menu bar pop-down.

Fantastical uses existing accounts and calendars from the Accounts system preferences pane. You can also manually add iCloud, Google, Yahoo, Fruux or any CalDAV-compatible calendar.

SPEAK FREELY

Flexibits has always stressed Fantastical's natural-language ability. You can type a sentence like, "Meet Laci at 10:15 am at 123 Every Street, New York, NY for two hours on Tuesday and set an alarm an hour before", press return and you're done. The date is set, the address added to the location field, the end time is calculated and the alarm turned on.

The supported vocabulary is large, though it's easy to stump. Entering 'eat bitter greens every night at 8 pm' works fine, but 'eat bitter greens at 8pm nightly forever' does not. Flexibits says it will expand the vocabulary based on user requests.

Reminders have more limited parameters; you need to preface your to-do sentence with 'reminder' or 'remind me to' or the like.

As with most mature software, Fantastical has some hidden features for power users. While at first glance it appears that you have to choose a calendar from the pop-up entry, using a slash followed by the unique part of a calendar name – like '/Office public' the appropriate one appears in the calendar field for the entry in progress.

WORK THE MOUSE AND KEYBOARD

As an app that grew from iOS, Fantastical minimises the number of 'touches' with a mouse. In the year view Fantastical uses shading to indicate the intensity of a day from yellow (least) to red (most). Hovering over a day for a moment reveals a floating summary; clicking scrolls the list at left to that day's activities.

In its drive to be clutter-free, options are hidden until needed while creating or when editing an event or reminder. Tapping a down arrow reveals items, such as invitees, URL and notes, as well as time haven't already been set for an event.

For frequent travellers, Fantastical supports fixed and floating time zones for events. Enter a time zone in natural language or the word 'float' or 'floating' and Fantastical places it correctly.

With about 25 personal, family, hobby and work calendars across seven accounts. I typically don't need to see all of them. Fantastical offers Calendar Sets to build sets, which can be selected among in a pop-up menu at the bottom of the list view. It also uses geofencing to choose which calendars appear at set locations.

Fantastical still has room to grow. Its treatment of reminders, which may be appropriate for most people, still doesn't match how I use them. Reminders that have a due-date attached appear in the list with a checkbox to mark them completed, along with exclamation points for higher-priority tasks.

For a program that has a lot of synchronisation options for calendars, it lacks one important one: you can't sync account information or other settings, like Calendar Sets, between multiple computers running Fantastical (I have two), or between iOS and OS X. This means setting up Fantastical from scratch on each device and, when a change occurs, managing it on each device.

A POWERFUL REPLACEMENT

Fantastical's simplicity and hidden depths may not be for everyone. But the company has made its choices based on years of development.

If you find Fantastical's event-list centric approach matches the way you want to manage your calendar, and the natural-language entry an appealing way to avoid adding events, it's the right program to pick.

- BY GLENN FLEISHMAN





WHATSIZE 6.1.8

UTILITY **ID-Design FREE**

Millions of files lurk in your OS X installation, many of them useful! In an age of spinning hard-drive plenty, in which a three-terabyte drive is cheap and fits in the space a 250GB or 500GB one did a few years ago, many of us are still constrained by the size of an SSD (solid state drive) or the irritation of a Mac model that has a hard drive that's nearly impossible to safely upgrade. What Size will help you figure out the mystery of what's filling your drive and give you both advice and tools to trim the fat.

WhatSize combines the functions of analysis and utility. Its analysis scans every file and folder on the disk and builds sortable, browsable and visual directories. Its utilities can suggest files to remove. It all starts by selecting a drive in the Devices list: WhatSize goes about its indexing business or loads a previously completed scan.

TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS AND FILE MANAGEMENT

The analysis part is divided into Browser, Outline, Table and PieChart. Browser and Outline correspond to the columns and views in the find. Table comprises every file and folder on a drive and can be sorted and filtered. For instance, you can find every file that's two years or older that occupies 100MB or more on your drive. This can help spot standout problems easily.

I found the PieChart view most immediately useful because it visualises how storage is divided up into folders and files and, by clicking a pie segment, it lets you descend into folders.

On the tools side, Cleaner, Delocalizer and Duplicates have unique functions. The Cleaner shows you all the log files, caches,



temporary files and downloads, as well as

'nib' files. Nibs are user-interface bundles that are often broken out by language. Delocalizer identifies OS X resources that are required for other languages.

The most common tool you'll likely use is Duplicates. When WhatSize creates its file list, it makes a short-hand signature of every file's contents, and uses that to identify identical files, disregarding system metadata and the file name. This is useful.

The Duplicates feature lets you instantly delete a file or move it to the Trash. Even with the Admin setting enabled (click the lock and enter an administrative password), WhatSize won't let you trash files directly that fall outside the Users directory, lest you kill a file critical to OS X's normal functioning.

You can also opt to replace a duplicate with a hard link, a feature that's used by Apple to create Time Machine backup directories.

SCAN IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU WORK

In testing the software on a crowded 500GB drive that had roughly 25GB free, I was rapidly able to remove the aforementioned virtualmachine snapshots and a host of large- and medium-sized duplicates. shedding over 90GB and giving myself some breathing room.

One major warning: it took more than a full workday to perform the initial analysis on my mid-2011 Mac mini (16GB RAM), often slowing down other operations. There's no way to pause a scan in progress, though you can quit the program. In my testing, quitting halted the process, but relaunching left it in an incomplete state, and the Remeasure option appeared to start all over again. An Activity Monitor will at least show you the progress.

Its greatest flaw isn't functionality, but price. Is it worth \$30 for what may be a one-time task? Yes, if you frequently find yourself with a filling drive and no explanation, or need to remove duplicates on a regular basis. Standalone de-duplicators work the same and cost less, but lack the visualisation and other lists and tools.

Bottom line. I'm sure I'll come back to WhatSize on this system repeatedly, as I have nearly filled the drive before. If you find yourself squeezed regularly, or want a great one-time blast, WhatSize fits the bill with smart, easy scanning and file clean-up.

– BY GLENN FLEISHMAN



MAC GEMS NEW SOFTWARE FROM THE MAC APP STORE



PASTE UTILITIES Jonathon Duerig \$7.49

Ever since the earliest days of the Macintosh, the clipboard has been an indispensable part of our workflow. Despite its remarkable usefulness, the clipboard hasn't seen much in the way of innovation at the system level, relying instead on hacks and utilities to unlock its full potential. Paste changes that. It's accessible via the menu bar or a logical Shift+Command+V shortcut. Anything you add to your clipboard gets stored in Paste's collection of cards that offers an at-a-glance view of what was copied. Paste's unsurpassed interface and OS X integration make it a standout even among its more powerful peers.





CONTROLAIR **PHOTOGRAPHY** eyeSight mobile technologies **FREE**



ControlAir is a free Mac application capable of controlling media player software using nothing but an index finger held away

from the screen. ControlAir enables touch-free, gesture-based control over seven Mac media player apps including iTunes, Spotify, Rdio, QuickTime Player and VLC via the built-in FaceTime HD camera.



CLEANMYMAC 3 UTILITIES MacPaw \$39.95



CleanMyMac 3 pulls together a series of tests and services to remove unused, developeroriented, extraneous and backup files that take up valuable space. CleanMyMac 3 has added an uninstaller, general maintenance,

online privacy functions and file shredder to the tools that have been part of the product for a while. All these tests can be customised.



METADATICS 1.5.3 MUSIC **Mark V Solutions** \$12.99



Metadatics is a powerful tool that's a bit more efficient to use and offers more features for changing tags than iTunes. You can use it for basic tagging, as you would

with iTunes, when you rip tracks from CDs or add downloads to your library. Drag the files onto the Metadatics window and start tagging.



FEEDLY NEWS DevHD FREE



When Google killed of Reader, Feedly become the go-to app for keeping up with RSS feeds - in fact, it's our favourite app for doing this. The interface is simple and

the suggestions it comes up with based on our existing subscriptions are excellent. There are multiple views that display differing amounts of information based on your preferences. In short – we love Feedly.



APP GUIDE Cool software for the iPad, iPhone & iPod touch.



PAPER PRODUCTIVITY FiftvThree **iPAD** FREE



There are times when the trusty old paper and pencil are the best tool for quickly capturing an idea. Paper emulates the paper and pencil, but adds some smarts. Draw a shape in a continuous stroke and it fixes the shape, so your circles and squares are perfect. In short, it makes your



DARK HORSE BOOKS Dark Horse Comics IPAD FREE



We're comic book fans. The great thing about Dark Horse (and the Marvel and DC Comics apps) is that Retina Displays and a massive library of archived issues bring comics to life. Dark Horse is a less wellknown label, but its app works beautifully. Double-tap to zoom into a panel and then flick left or right to move sequentially through the story.



FII I R **PRODUCTIVITY** Pop Tech **iPHONE** FREE



It can be a real hassle to fill forms in on your iPhone. Between the small screen and some poorly designed sites, entering your information can be a pain. Fillr automates the process by storing your personal information and letting you use iOS's Sharing feature to populate fields automatically. Fillr is locally developed and well worth a look.



WORKFLOW **PRODUCTIVITY** DeskConnect **iPHONE & iPAD & WATCH \$3.99**



Workflow can automate over 200 actions. including those for Contacts, Calendar, Maps, Music, Photos, Camera, Reminders, Safari, AirDrop, Twitter, Facebook and more. It can make animated GIFs, create icons for calling specific people and more. With a single button, you can send your location and a notification that you've left work so your significant other can get the dinner ready!



HANX WRITER PRODUCTIVITY Hitcents **iPAD** FREE

If you've got a few grey hairs then you'd remember the sound of keys being tapped as being punctuated with a bell. That was in the days of typewriters. Actor Tom Hanks is a fan of those days so he took the skeuomorphism route with Hanx Writer. It's a word processing app for the iPad that looks and sounds like an old school typewriter. It works with iOS's sharing tools, so you can create documents and share them easily. In-app purchases add different typewriter styles and keyboards. It's a lot of fun, but your colleagues may get sick of the sound effects.





ELIMINATING PAPER FROM YOUR OFFICE

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

The paperless office is the mythical place to which the computer revolution was meant to deliver us once computers became mainstream. Or when the iPad transformed the computing landscape.

While printer sales are declining, according to a recent report by Gartner, we're still years away from becoming paperless. But you can start moving towards a paperless office.

Going paperless requires three key elements in order to succeed: people, process and systems.

PEOPLE

In order for your business to become paperless, you need to get your people on board.

That means teaching them how to effectively use the alternatives you put in place, listening to their concerns and addressing them. Engaging your staff in change is the best way to ensure they will move ahead even when there's some initial discomfort.

PROCESS

There are two key things you need to address when going paperless.

Customers, suppliers, banks and other entities will still send you letters and documents on paper. You need to create processes and acquire systems to manage the flow of paper into your business.

Reducing the amount of paper you use is easier. But it will require working with your people to ensure you have systems in place to deal with tasks such as reading, reviewing, editing and sharing documents that don't require hard copies.

SYSTEMS

The right hardware and software is critical. You can design the best processes and have a highly motivated staff, but if the hardware and software make it hard, then there's little chance of your transition working.

Look for solutions that work well together. It may be tempting to buy the best scanner on the market for ingesting documents into the business, but it's more important to use a scanner that has software that makes it easy to store and retrieve saved documents.

There are dozens of different document management software solutions available, but if they make it hard to save or find documents, then people will find ways to avoid using them.

PULLING IT TOGETHER

The solution you choose for your business' journey to going paperless will depend on many factors. If you're a small business with a handful of people, it may be cost-effective to put a small scanner on each person's desk and use a cloud-based storage solution that works with the scanner.

For example, the Fujitsu ScanSnap 1300i is just 10cm by 29cm, so it takes up very little desk space – meaning you can scan incoming documents without leaving your workspace. For mobile workers, it can be powered via USB ports. It scans both sides of a page at the same time. For filing, Evernote can receive content via email, drag and drop or directly from the ScanSnap scanner.

Electronic documents can be emailed straight to Evernote.

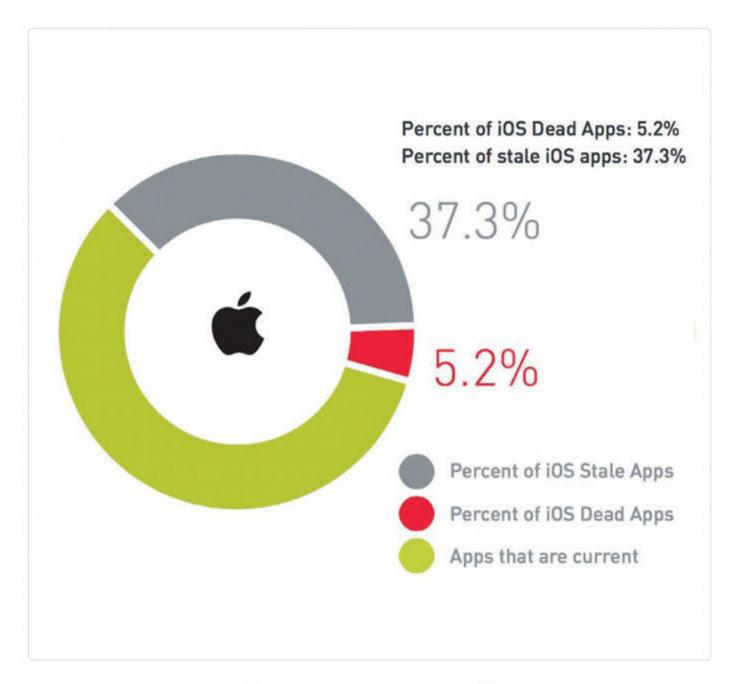
Incoming documents like letters, receipts and statements are scanned with the ScanSnap and the accompanying software sends the scans straight to Evernote.

Evernote makes it easy to share documents and notebooks (collections or folders of notes), so it's possible to create personal and private notebooks for documents.

It's worth noting that the Australian Tax Office says it is acceptable to retain electronic versions of documents as a record (http://law.ato.gov.au/pdf/pbr/tr2005-009.pdf) as long as they are not altered or manipulated once stored, are retained for the statutory period of five years, and are capable of being retrieved and read at all times by Tax Office staff.

Larger businesses may find putting a scanner on every desk prohibitive. Large office multifunction devices make it easy to scan documents and save them to corporate document repositories that are held either on the premises or in the cloud.





DEAD APPS AN ENTERPRISE RISK

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

It happens to all of us – there's an app you like, but after some time the developer either abandons the app or they stop updating it, having replaced it with something new. Evernote did it recently when it decommissioned its incredibly handy

Hello app. Filemaker did it with Bento and thousands of smaller developers have done it.

Security company Appthority has released its most recent security report. It says 'dead apps' are "the biggest risk to the enterprise".

Appthority's research has found that almost 43 percent of apps are either stale (where the version of the app in the App Store is newer than the version deployed on user devices) or dead (the app has been removed from the App Store, but remains on a user device). It looked at a collection of over three million apps and how these apps were being consumed in enterprise environments.

It has found Android dominates overall market share of the world's consumer smartphones, but Apple's iOS overwhelmingly dominates the enterprise market share at 85 percent of employee devices. One reason for this is possibly a perception Android is less safe, according to Appthority.

REPORT OF 1500 FLAWED IOS APPS IN APP STORE

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

Researchers from security firm
SourceDNA have found 1500 apps in
the App Store that suffer from an SSL
(Secure Sockets Layer) validation issue
discovered in an open source library.
Although the library was only in the wild
for a few weeks, it made its way into 1500
applications downloaded by over two
million people.

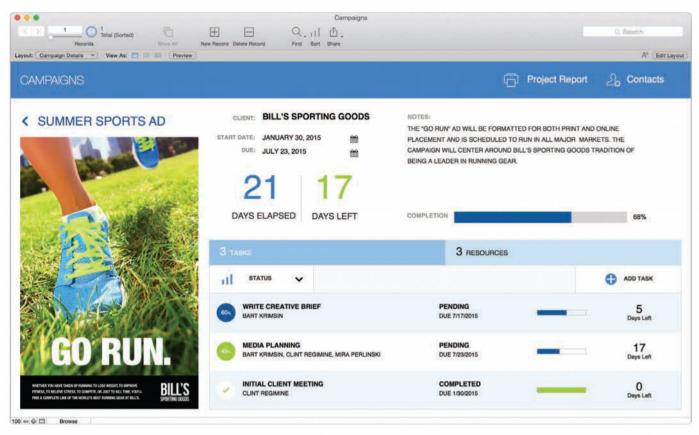
The flaw was found in a software library called AFNetworking. Due to lack of SSL certificate validation, a man in the middle attack, where someone simply intercepts network traffic, could bypass SSL and see the user credentials used by an application. SourceDNA decided to track down apps that were using the vulnerable version of AFNetworking in order to notify developers so they could fix the problem.

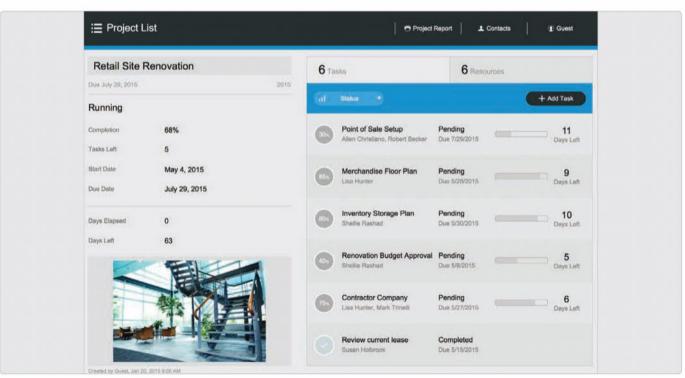
It's an interesting piece of data and highlights how interdependent software developers are on each other.

It's important to note that this isn't a piece of malware introduced into the App Store. It's a shared piece of software code that many developers used. It also highlights the importance of keeping apps up-to-date – something that almost everyone can do better according to a recent report.









FILEMAKER 14 HITS THE MARKET

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

FileMaker 14 has hit the market with a focus on getting started faster on new projects, as well as a raft of functional and design improvements. This is FileMaker's 30th anniversary.

For FileMaker developers, the updated Script Workspace consolidates the creation, editing and viewing of scripts and calculations, all in one streamlined workspace. Auto-complete, favourites, in-line editing, shortcuts, script step descriptions with in-line Help, automated command-lookup and other features speed development.

For less experienced FileMaker developers, the judicious addition of point-and-click capability alongside the contextual guidance make it easier for non-programmers to uses scripting to create custom solutions.

FileMaker applications can be deployed to a variety of devices. The iOS version, FileMaker Go, works on iPads and iPhones. FileMaker WebDirect makes it easy to deliver desktop-style interactivity to mobile browsers on tablets with the ability to dynamically adapt to different screen sizes.

People who have multiple FileMaker applications will welcome the Launch Centre. It allows users to visually organise solutions and use icons to identify different applications, rather than all the applications using the same, generic icon. There are 29 pre-built icons and you can create your own as well.

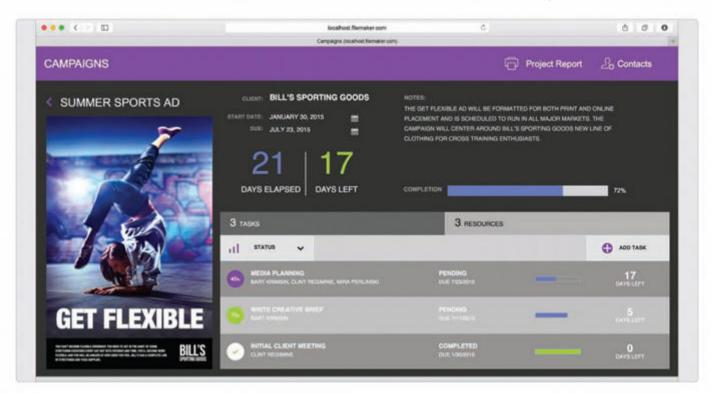
The Launch Centre works across the entire FileMaker 14 Platform on Windows and Mac with FileMaker Pro, on iOS devices with FileMaker Go, and in a browser with FileMaker WebDirect.

iOS users will see some changes. FileMaker Go has been given an iOS 8 once-over. Developers can make solutions full screen by using scripts or swiping to hide the user interface. The new set-screen orientation can lock applications to portrait or landscape views and there are several new functions, including video and audio playback controls.

FileMaker WebDirect is now up to 25 percent faster than before and has doubled the number of supported concurrent connections from 50 to 100. For those on intermittent network connections, automatic reconnect from FileMaker Pro 14 solutions to FileMaker Server 14 helps users recover quickly when their connection breaks down.

PRICING

- FileMaker Go for iOS is free from the App Store.
- FileMaker Pro costs either \$11 per month payable 12 months at a time or \$449.
- FileMaker Advanced costs either \$18
 per month payable 12 months at a time
 or \$719.
- FileMaker Server costs either \$36 per month payable 12 months at a time or \$1274. 🖫





The MacBook's new trackpad will change the way you click



The latest MacBook update has given people who follow Apple news plenty to talk about. But, for Mac users, the biggest news has to do with all the ways the new MacBook diverges from what we've been used to.

No MagSafe, Thunderbolt or standard USB ports, which have all been replaced by a single USB-C port – that's big news, undoubtedly. But I'm just as interested in the different approach Apple is taking with input devices. After all, the new MacBook's keyboard and trackpad are unlike any of those currently found in the Mac line.

THE MAC STANDARD

In the past few years, the Mac product line has been more consistent than I can remember it having been for ages. USB and Thunderbolt are everywhere. (It's never been easier to bring a Mac into a room to do a slide presentation, since every Mac can use a Mini DisplayPort connector.) All of Apple's keyboards, whether desktop or laptop, have been the exact same design for quite a while now. And while buyers of new desktop Macs can opt for a mouse, they can also buy a Bluetooth

trackpad that more or less matches the one found in Apple's laptops.

Welp. Here comes the MacBook, shaking things up. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but unless the MacBook remains a strange outlier, we may be witnessing an end to this era of stability and the beginning of a shake-up in everything we take for granted on the Mac. (Start packing those video adapters again, friends.)

THE NEW KEYBOARD

Apple designed the keyboard in the new MacBook to have reduced key travel, presumably because the thing is just too thin to allow those keys to move very far up or down. That seems reasonable, but when Apple extolled the virtues of the new keyboard, it raved about the increased size and stability of its key caps, the clever design of the butterfly keyboard switches, the stainless steel dome switches. So is this a compromise keyboard specifically designed for the MacBook, or does Apple feel this keyboard design is so great that it's going to make sure that all of its future Mac keyboards are exactly the same way?

I type around 110 words per minute and write for a living, so keyboards are very important to my livelihood, though I would not remotely call myself a keyboard snob. After Apple's March



event, I spent a lot of time typing on the new MacBook keyboard in the demo area. I'm not ready to render any final judgements – I'm going to need to live with a MacBook for a few days before I can do that – but I can attest to the fact that this new keyboard is going to take some getting used to.

The very small amount of key travel is the first thing I noticed. When you push a key, it depresses slightly, and lands hard (presumably on that stainless steel dome switch). It doesn't feel at all like a cheap keyboard, but it's a shockingly different feel to the current crop of Apple keyboards. It's like a cross between those current Apple keyboards and typing on an iPad screen, if that makes any sense. It's got the physical feel of a real keyboard, but with the hard landing of hitting that glass screen.

In fact, I found that I typed a lot faster on the new MacBook keyboard once I adapted some of my iPad typing technique to the new keyboard. My typing style on a physical keyboard includes a lot of force as a pushthrough depressing each key. With the new MacBook keyboard, when I started thinking of just tapping the key with a finger (as if I was tapping the keys on an iPad's screen) and not using any extra force, things started to move a lot better.

Apple says the new keyboard's butterfly mechanism is more stable

than the old scissor-switch keys and that seems right, though I admit that I've never really had a complaint about the keys on my keyboard feeling unstable. Each key cap is larger, which means they should be easier to hit, but the space between keys has been reduced, which would seem to me to increase the chances that your finger will hit the wrong key.

Beyond the changes to the key movement itself, this keyboard offers a few other interesting features. Each key is individually LED lit. The Escape key has been elongated and the function keys narrowed. The arrow keys have been redesigned; the up and down arrows are still half-height, but the left and right arrows are now full sized. I can't decide if I like that or not, so for now I'll just say: change acknowledged.

The fact is, any time you switch to a new keyboard, there's an adjustment period, especially if the keyboard style is drastically different. That's the case here. Still, my gut feeling is that this is the best keyboard Apple could make given the constraints of the MacBook. It's too early to say for sure, but if I had to make a judgement right now, I'd say that I hope this keyboard stays with the MacBook and goes no further.

THE NEW TRACKPAD

The highlight of my time using the MacBook was undoubtedly using the new Force Touch trackpad. It messes with your head, but in a good way. I may be cautious when it comes to the keyboard, but I'm in love with the new trackpad.

I have never liked the tap-to-click gesture on trackpads, preferring a physical click. So hearing that the new MacBook trackpad doesn't actually depress made me despair. But what Apple has implemented – a series of force sensors underneath the trackpad surface and a Taptic Engine that can vibrate the surface on demand – is a remarkable simulation of the real thing. If I hadn't known how the thing worked,

I would've sworn that Apple had got its own announcement wrong and that this trackpad was just like all of the other trackpads on other Apple laptops.

Nope! When you press on the trackpad, the Taptic Engine fires up and shakes the surface of the trackpad. Your brain interprets the vibration and the pressure as a downward click, even though that's not what's actually happening. (The vibration from the Taptic Engine is from side to side, not up and down.)

This is all presumably to drive a little more thickness out of the MacBook, but it has a fun side benefit. Now the 'clickiness' of the trackpad can be controlled by software. A new slider in the Trackpad system preference pane lets you adjust how much force is required for a click, so you can tweak it to fit your preferences.

More impressively, Apple should be rolling this functionality out to third-party Mac developers soon. I'm really curious to see what sorts of features they'll dream up. As a proof of concept, Apple demonstrated a version of QuickTime Player that allows you to adjust the fast-forward speed based on how hard you press on the fast-forward button. The feature itself is a little gimmicky, but as a demo for the new trackpad it was impressive. The harder I pressed on the trackpad, the more clicks I felt. It was as if the trackpad was tabbed somehow, so I could feel as I pushed through each successive step to the next.

And all the while, the trackpad wasn't actually moving lower – it was all in my mind. It was enough to make me immediately desire a version of this trackpad for my desktop.

The new MacBook also introduces an entirely new gesture to the Mac vocabulary. You know about clicks, double-clicks and control-clicks (or right-clicks or two-finger-clicks). Now meet the Force click. On the version of OS X running on the MacBooks in the demo room, I could click extra hard on a word on a web page in Safari, and it would open a floating palette with a dictionary

definition or a link to a Wikipedia page. (In technical terms, Apple has wired its Data Detectors technology to the Force click feature in Safari. In Finder, a Force click kicks off a Quick Look preview.

Again, presumably developers will be able to support Force clicks in interesting ways. But with both of these features we're back to that whole idea of 'the Mac standard' again; the number of Macs that support these gestures will be few and far between for quite a while yet. Even if Apple does move Force touch into every trackpad it makes - which I think is likely - it'll be a while before the majority of Mac users can take advantage of those features. Still. the idea of giving trackpad gestures an additional dimension seems great to me. But then, I am a committed trackpad user. Can you Force-click a mouse? Maybe we'll find out someday soon.

Let's not forget that the existence of the Taptic Engine isn't just wired to emulate mouse clicks. According to Apple, the Force Touch trackpad can communicate other goings-on on your Mac to you via a vibration. Imagine dragging to centre a text block in Keynote, and feeling when you hit dead centre, rather than just seeing it on screen. The new trackpad makes that kind of interaction possible.

ERAS OF CHANGE

It's human nature to prefer stability and fear change. After a nice era of stability for the Mac platform, it certainly feels like the new MacBook is ushering in an era of change. I'm excited about the future of the Force Touch trackpad and a little more sceptical about the MacBook's new keyboard, but there's no doubt that both of them may change the way we all use our Macs in the next few years.

Jason Snell is the former editorial director of Macworld, and has reviewed every major Apple product of the last few years, including the original iPhone and iPad as well as every major version of Mac OS X. Check out Sixcolors.com for his latest Apple coverage.



Alpha Drone

At just 109g the Alpha Drone has a 60m range and an in-built six-axis gyro control. Throw the Alpha into the air, hit the throttle and it will right itself and be ready for action in milliseconds. The on-board camera records footage in HD 720p at 30 frames per second and shoots pictures at 2MP.

Alpha / \$199.95 / www.kaiserbaas.com

GIZMOS GOODIES ADGETGUIDE



Elgato Avea Smart Lightbulbs

Home automation is the new battleground for technology companies. Elgato's Avea lights fit into screw fittings and can be controlled from an iOS app or Apple Watch. A single lamp can glow in almost any colour and the intensity can be controlled. You can even set lamps to turn on as an alarm.

Elgato \$67

GEAR

www.elgato.com



DodoCase **Charging Stand**

DodoCase's wood charging dock is made from California American walnut and is handcrafted in San Francisco. It has a weighted steel base and integrates the Apple Watch charger into an angled shelf with carved wire routing to keep everything organised. It boasts a travel mode, which allows you to easily wrap the cable and charger in one package, and it fits all strap designs and watch models.

DodoCase US\$99.95

www.dodocase.com



HEDock

The HEDock Apple Watch Charging Dock is made from high quality aluminium and designed to safely charge your watch on your desk or by your bedside. The upright, minimalist industrial design has a urethane coating to prevent scratches and a charger seat to hold the watch charger in place.

Howard Electronics Company \$49

www.hedocks.com



LifeActiv Bike + Bar Mount

If you have a LifeProof ruggedised case for your iPhone and ride a bike, then the Bike + Bar Mount is a great accessory. Using a combination magnet and clip system that sticks to the back of a LifeProof case - we used the Nuud - you can safely mount your iPhone when you hit the road or trail.

LifeProof US\$39.95

www.lifeproof.com



Elgato Thunderbolt 2 Dock

If you shift between working in an office with a screen, mouse and keyboard and travelling, having a way to connect all those peripherals quickly can be a great convenience. Elgato's Thunderbolt 2 Dock expands your Mac's capability significantly with three USB 3.0 ports, an HDMI connection, a pair of Thunderbolt 2 ports and a Gigabit Ethernet jack, as well as audio connectivity. One of the USB ports and an audio connector for speakers and a microphone are on the front of the unit. The Elgato Thunderbolt 2 Dock passes our 'just works' test. No setup hassles, easy to use and small enough to not add clutter to our busy desk.

Elgato \$339.95

www.elgato.com



The Bumper

The Apple Watch is a well-made device, but you still want to protect it. The Bumper, which is made with hypoallergenic material, comes in three colours and protects the entire Apple Watch including the Digital Crown. The Bumper is compatible with the 42mm Apple Watch and will fit with any strap.

Actionproof \$35

www.actionproof.com

Belkin Car Charge

The Belkin Car Charge and Navigation Mount with Lightning Connector plugs into the cigarette lighter in your car. While charging your iPhone, it lets you safely view navigation information on the screen. The mount rotates 90 degrees, so you can get the best sightline to your iOS device screen.

Belkin / \$59.95 / www.belkin.com





WHICH WATCH?

HOW TO PICK THE APPLE WATCH THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

BY LEAH YAMSHON

o you like the aluminium look?
Do you want your Watch band to
match your Watch case? Do you
have \$14,000? These are just a few things
to consider when selecting your first
Apple Watch.

Picking an Apple Watch isn't like picking out your next iPhone – forget about focusing on specs and storage size. Instead, you'll be looking at alloys and metals (aluminium, stainless steel or solid gold?), style (sporty, classic or blingbling?) and price (\$449, \$799 or the cost of iPad Air 2s for you and 19 friends?) The Apple Watch is unchartered territory, but we're here to help you navigate. Here are some things to consider before you buy your Apple Watch.

THE WATCH ITSELF

Under the hood, the Apple Watch hardware is exactly the same. The only differences between the three models are cosmetic ones, so if you opt for a \$14,000 Edition, it will function just the same as a \$499 Sport (more on price in a little bit). The storage and battery life is the same across the board (go.macworld.com/storage). You'll get 8GB of storage (Apple says you'll be limited to 2GB of music storage and 75MB

for photos within the Photos app) and up to 18 hours of battery life on a single charge.

A big criticism of smartwatches so far has been regarding size: the ginormous faces of some of these watches look ridiculous on a smaller wrist – namely, women's wrists (go.macworld.com/large). That's why Apple made two size options for the Apple Watch: 38mm and 42mm. You can see what each of these look like on your own wrist within the Apple Store app on your iPhone – the app shows their actual sizes. Once you're on the Apple Watch landing page within the app, go to Learn more >View pricing > Compare case sizes.

BANDS ON THE RUN

Most of the watch bands come with different size options, but don't pick your favourite band until you've measured your wrist. Some bands are limited to one case size, and others only cover a limited range. (I like the Leather Loop, but my wrist is 146mm around – and the Leather Loop isn't available for the 38mm case, which is my preferred size, so I'll have to pick a different band. Bummer.) Apple has a comprehensive sizing guide, so keep that in mind when picking your band and case.

Here's a breakdown:

Modern Buckle: sorry, dudes – the Modern Buckle (go.macworld.com/modern) is only available for the 38mm version, in three sizes:

- Small: Fits wrists 135mm to 150mm
- Medium: Fits wrists 145mm to 165mm
- Large: Fits wrists 160mm to 180mm

Leather Loop: ...and sorry, ladies, the Leather Loop (go.macworld.com/loop) is only available for the 42mm version, in two sizes:

- Medium: Fits wrists 150mm to 185mm
- Large: Fits wrists 180mm to 210mm

Milanese Loop: the Milanese Loop (go.macworld.com/milanese) is a one-sizefits-all situation, with a wide range for each of the case models:

- 38mm: Fits wrists 130mm to 180mm
- 42mm: Fits wrists 150mm to 200mm

Link Bracelet: the Link Bracelet (go.macworld.com/link) also only comes in one size per case:

- 38mm: Fits wrists 135mm to 195mm
- 42mm: Fits wrists 140mm to 205mm

Classic Buckle: again, the Classic Buckle (go.macworld.com/classicb) only has one size for each case:

- 38mm: Fits wrists 125mm to 200mm
- 42mm: Fits wrists 145mm to 215mm

Sport Band: the Sport Band (go.macworld.com/sportb) comes in two sizes— small/medium, and medium/large—and you'll get both sizes if you order this band:

- 38mm: small/medium fits wrists
 130mm to 180mm; medium/large fits
 wrists 150mm to 200mm
- 42mm: small/medium fits wrists
 140mm to 185mm; medium/large fits
 wrists 160mm to 210mm

All of the bands are interchangeable with each of the Watch models, as long as they're for the right Watch case size. So, if you get the 42mm Watch case, you could pick any band designed for the 42mm version.

BE A GOOD SPORT

Yes, yes, yes: cases and bands are all about size. But the models themselves are all about materials, style and price. Which one should you pick?

For fitness buffs – or for those of you who have to have an Apple Watch, but are on a tighter budget – your pick is a no-brainer. Go with the Apple Watch Sport (go.macworld.com/sport). Priced at \$499 for the 38mm version and \$579 for the 42mm version, the Sport has an aluminium case, features Apple's Ion-X glass display and ships with the fluoroelastomer (say that three times fast...) Sport Band. There's actually a lot to like about the Sport Band, too: it's comfortable, durable, and sweat proof and it's available in black or white if neon colours aren't your thing.

The Sport is also a good pick if you're still not entirely sure about this whole Apple Watch business. Because it's more affordable, it makes a great starter device – for those of you who have first-generation device jitters. And if you end up loving your Apple Watch Sport, you can upgrade its band later, though the metals won't precisely match.

THE (CLASSIC?) APPLE WATCH

Apple's mid-range offering is simply called the Apple Watch (go.macworld.com/awatch), which is

a little confusing, considering that Apple refers to its entire product line as the Apple Watch Collection. (Thanks, Apple!) Name aside, the (classic? basic?) Watch offers a bit of both sides of the coin – it packs extra style that the base Apple Watch Sport lacks without breaking the bank like the Apple Watch Edition. Prices start from \$799 and rise depending on case size and band style.

The Watch costs \$200 more than the Sport because of its stainless steel case (instead of aluminium), sapphire crystal covering the display and black accent on the digital crown. Apple boasts that its signature stainless steel is 80 percent harder than normal stainless steel, and it certainly is sleek-looking.

The lowest price Watch ships with a Sport Band, but the stainless steel case really shines when paired with a leather (Classic Buckle, Modern Buckle or Leather Loop, all with stainless steel finishes) or a stainless steel (Milanese Loop or Link Bracelet) band. Yes, you can pair the Apple Watch Sport case with a Milanese Loop band, but the aluminium will clash with the stainless steel, while the classic Watch was made for these bands. Plus,









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the Apple Watch also has a space grey stainless steel case option that's super svelte, with bands to match.

So if you have a somewhat flexible budget, and want a more polished look, go with the Apple Watch.

LIMITED EDITION

We all want to be worthy of the Apple Watch Edition (go.macworld.com/edition), but really, this one flat out comes down to price: Apple's crème de la crème offering ranges from \$14,000 to \$17,000. (Seventeen. Thousand. Dollars. There goes my Apple Watch pipe dream of the rose

gold Edition with the rose grey Modern Buckle band.) It's gorgeous, and one of the priciest products the company has ever made. That kind of dough gets you either a yellow gold or (drool-worthy) rose gold case, and ships with a Sport Band, Modern Buckle or Classic Buckle.

Though you could pre-order the Edition online, this seems like something you'd want to try on first, if you can find a store that carries it: the Edition will be available in limited numbers, in select Apple and high-end retail stores. Even though it's available in both the 38mm and 42mm case sizes, it looks like a piece of high-end jewellery - meaning it may not be everyone's cup of tea, style-wise.

So, if you have a sky-high budget, your name is Beyoncé or you simply must have a gold watch to match your daily Oscar de la Renta, then the Edition is for you.

Just remember: even though the battery will be replaceable (go.macworld.com/replace), the Apple Watch is still a first-generation mobile gadget with a limited shelf life - it will likely be technologically outdated after a couple of years at most. Are you willing to take the plunge, or are you going to wait for the second round?



f we were in Tim Cook's shoes right now, we wouldn't be worrying about the Apple Watch's sales potential. Oh, it will sell. The new TV spot is inspiring, and the stainless steel polish on these watches looks fan-frigging-amazing. Add in Apple's trademark surprise-and-delight, and all signs point to record sales for months to come.

We'd be more concerned about people using a Watch packed silly with features – far too many of them borrowed from the catalogue of smartwatch failures. Perhaps that's why we've seen Apple take a more circumspect stance with apps, only allowing Watch OS apps into the App Store if they actually add real functionality. Unlike Pebble, which allows 'developers' to publish fancy watch faces (there are even websites that automate this process, so you can convert almost any image into a watch face), Apple is not allowing apps that only tell the time into the App Store.

A troubling number of smartwatch owners eventually toss their gadgets aside. The most detailed data on this problem, a July 2014 Endeavour Partners study (go. macworld.com/wearablestudy), reported that about a third of all smartwatch and fitness band owners abandon their wrist wearables after six months. Our own experience has mirrored that study.

Poor battery life certainly contributes to attrition rates. Aside from the Pebble, you need to put nearly all smartwatches in their charging cradles before you go to bed. Forget to do so once, and you blame yourself. Forget to do so twice, and you blame the watch. Forget to do so thrice, and you begin losing interest entirely.

DON'T GIVE UP

The Apple Watch battery is rated for 18 hours, so users will need to be vigilant about recharging. Trust us: we've been reviewing smartwatches since they became a thing, and once you run out of juice the first time, you're already on the path to giving up. It's a secondary device. It's not essential like your phone. So giving up is easy. Although the Apple Watch's hefty price tag may encourage wearers to persist

- it's harder to give up on a \$550 device than a \$99 one. And, until Apple's supply chain catches up with demand, there's a desire by some to keep wearing their Apple Watch, even though they may have fallen out of love just a little, in order to stand out in the crowd.

But the Apple Watch faces exposure to an even bigger problem: feature bloat. It's an issue that plagued Samsung's Galaxy Gear and now, inexplicably, Apple is following Samsung down the same dangerous path. The Watch OS interface packs a lot of application icons into a very small space.

After the initial setup, where the default installation migrates all of your Watch OS-compatible apps from your iPhone to the Apple Watch, we had dozens of apps – all represented by small icons that were hard to tell apart. Several apps had very similar icons. For example, the World Clock and Stopwatch apps both have orange icons with clocks. Telling them apart is not that easy.

Just because you *can* add a feature doesn't mean you *should* add a feature. Yet recently, Apple confirmed that the Watch will allow voice calls from your wrist, just like Samsung's Gear, an ambitious but seriously flawed smartwatch pioneer. The Gear's speaker is too weak and tinny to cut through wind and crowd noise. It's a mission-defining parlour trick that breaks your heart.

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Apple's engineers have made good on Samsung's broken promise. We've been able to make and receive calls on the Apple Watch. Other than in some specific situations, however, we're unlikely to use that capability. Seriously, you look pretty weird holding your wrist to your face when receiving a call.

The integration with Continuity is more useful. We've been able to answer a call on the Apple Watch and then switch to our iPhone easily. But we're unlikely to conduct a long conversation on the Apple Watch.

But simply copying Samsung's Dick Tracy shtick is alarming. The world's cruel pundits don't really care about Samsung, and none of them will ever remember the Galaxy Gear. But if Apple's voice calls let people down, you'll hear about it in *The Daily Mail*, on *Saturday Night Live* and on your local evening news.

Then there's the Apple Watch's heart rate glance, which shows your heart's beats-per-minute whenever you initiate a spot check. It's a ubiquitous feature on all Samsung watches, and you'll also find it on every Android Wear watch. Unless you're exercising, it's also essentially useless, as none of these watches' heart rate sensors can provide accurate real-time readings during the jumping and jostling of physical exercise.

In our testing while out for a run, however, we've benchmarked the Apple Watch against a heart rate chest strap and a Fitbit Charge HR. Although all three gave different results for the average heart rate over a 45-minute run, the difference was less than 10 percent across all three devices. Sure, it's not perfect but, unless you're an elite athlete, that's accurate enough.

We suspect about 98 percent of all Android users will tell you they never use their smartwatch's heart rate feature except for when they're showing off their smartwatch. For this reason alone, Apple has diminished its essential brand promise by including this frivolous, me-too feature. It's noise, not utility. It's bloat, not function.

ALL WE EVER LOOK FOR

We're cherry-picking two very obvious copycat features, but the Apple Watch is packed with many more, from mail alerts to workout programs to mapping directions, even to generous support for third-party apps. You could argue that some smartwatch features are must-haves, that a smartwatch isn't a smartwatch unless these features are present and accounted for. But the problem is smartwatches have not been a resounding success.

Apple's recent success has been built on the foundation of one critical product: the iPod. It's easy to forget the iPod now





that it's been relegated to a bit player on Apple's stage. But 13 years ago, when Apple introduced the first iPod, it was a revolutionary product. Not because it did something nothing else did, but because it did it better than anyone else had thought possible.

The iPod was not the first portable music player. And it wasn't the cheapest. But it was a one-trick pony that didn't try to do everything. So-called essential features such as playlist management were left out of the iPod in order to simplify the core purpose of playing back music.

The iPhone was similar. It wasn't the first smartphone, but it was the best combination of features, so that the user was put first.

We're not convinced the Apple Watch has taken the same approach. Jony Ive's design chops are beautifully displayed in the Apple Watch hardware. One commentator recently said Apple has been able to pull off the same level of design and manufacturing excellence seen in \$35,000 watches in a \$550 device. But the Apple Watch software seems like a different story to us.

So why emulate mediocrity? We think a much stronger Apple Watch would offer simple notifications, Passbook with built-in Apple Pay, HomeKit integration, and a full suite of timekeeping and personal messaging functions. In other words: all Apple, all the time. Addition via subtraction. Give users a relatively small set of exquisitely engineered and incontrovertibly useful features, and then drop the mic.

MOMENTS OF PLEASURE

Of course, once you get your Apple Watch, you can choose to use just a short list of features and ignore the ones that don't appeal to you. You may find that a watch that tells the time, pays for coffee, opens doors and sends haptic heartbeats to loved ones is all you ever need. Indeed, Apple's small, ostensibly trivial surprise-and-delight tricks (taps, sketches, stickers and custom animated emojis) may be all the Watch requires to be a resounding success.





But there's still something psychologically deflating about a watch – or any product – that's jam-packed with stuff you never use. You begin to question whether you're getting your full money's worth. It's like dropping \$60 for a Las Vegas buffet, getting way too full on \$20 of crab legs, and wondering what just happened.

We will never hold our computers and smartphones to the stringent requirements we ask of smartwatches. We have to have a computer and phone. But a smartwatch? Probably not. So while you may buy the upcoming Apple Watch, you may not buy its second-gen follow-up if you feel you didn't get your money's worth, or some borderline features just didn't work. And that's not just bad news for Apple. It's bad news for Samsung, LG, Motorola and all the other mobile companies looking for salvation in an entirely new product category.

Now we can only wait and see if the watch has solved all of its competitors' problems, or overreached by playing its competitors' game.

Playlist: Ask the iTunes Guy

Deleting iTunes Radio, death of the old Info window, plus cleaning up the iTunes Library. BY KIRK MCFI HEARN

Tunes, like most software, requires that you do things in a certain way. It isn't very flexible for users who think differently. For example, why would anyone want to get rid of iTunes Radio? Why would iTunes users wish to sort their music by artists' last names, then first names? And why would you want to use a more capable Info window to tag files? Because that's the way you prefer to work? Let's explore.

DELETING ITUNES RADIO

Q: Is there a way to disable iTunes
Radio? I don't use it and I
sometimes click it by accident. It
also pops up every time I launch
iTunes, asking me for my iTunes
password, which is driving me mad.

A: There is a way to hide iTunes Radio, but to do this you also have to hide the iTunes Store. You can do so by choosing iTunes Preferences, and then clicking Parental. The Parental Control preference lets you block certain features that you may not want your children to access.

One of these is the iTunes Store. If you check this, and then click OK, you'll see that buttons for the iTunes Store and iTunes Radio no longer appear. (Note that Internet Radio is different from iTunes Radio. It's a feature for listening to internet radio streams within iTunes.)

If you want to access the iTunes Store, this isn't ideal. Each time you intend to visit the iTunes Store you'll have to unblock it from the preferences. But if you don't visit the store very often, you may find this a suitable solution. I can't imagine that Apple will allow people to hide iTunes Radio any other way, as it's partly a tool to sell music. Plus, with rumours that Apple will be adding a music streaming service to iTunes in the near future, I would expect to see it even more tightly integrated into iTunes.

NOSTALGIC FOR THE OLD-FASHIONED INFO WINDOW

Q: I like to use the 'old' Get Info window for tracks in iTunes, accessed by right-clicking the track and holding down the Option key while selecting Get Info. I just upgraded to iTunes 12.1 and this trick no longer works. Is my beloved 'old view' Get Info window gone forever?

A: I've mentioned that window several times in my Ask the iTunes Guy columns. I called it the 'old-fashioned' Info window.

Unfortunately, Apple removed this when it released iTunes 12.1. I suspect that it was a bug in iTunes 12.0 that allowed access to that window. It's a shame, because its a much more flexible tool for tagging files.

MY TAGS KEEP CHANGING

Q: In recent versions of iTunes I've tried to change certain artists' names by right-clicking on an item and changing it in the Info window. The change will take effect, but then every time Apple updates iTunes, the changes are reset. How do I make permanent changes to track info such as artist name or even song name?

A: This problem seems to be more prevalent than before; I've been getting a lot of emails about it. There's a setting in iTunes' preferences that causes this problem. For example, if you have purchased music from the iTunes Store and have checked Show iTunes in the cloud purchases, iTunes will not only display your purchased tracks, but will 'correct' their tags to match what's in the iTunes Store, if you've made any changes.

The only way to stop this is to uncheck that setting. Unfortunately, Apple doesn't understand that you may want to use iTunes in the Cloud, but not use all of its tags. I discussed this in an article on my website (go. macworld.com/kirkville) last year; I also explained an easy way to get back the changes you made to your tags.

If you uncheck this setting, you won't be able to download items directly from your iTunes library. Instead, you'll have to go to the iTunes Store and download them from your Purchased list. You can access the Purchased list by clicking the button in the iTunes toolbar that shows your name and then choosing Purchased.

SORT, ORDER

Q: As my iTunes music library grows, I find it more difficult to find the music I want when I list music by artist. I'd like to show my artists with their last names first. Is there any way to do this?

A: Alas, no. It would make sense, allowing users to see Springsteen, Bruce, instead of Bruce Springsteen. I do this for the names of classical music composers, but I've never considered doing it for other artists.

However, there are a number of potential problems. What do you do for a band such as The Beatles? Would it be changed to Beatles, The? And how about Jethro Tull?

The only way to do this is manually, and that can take a while. Select all the tracks by a given artist and then press Command-I. In the Artist and Album Artist field, change the name, and then click OK. Naturally, you only need to change artists whose personal names appear, not band names, so you won't have to change your entire music library.

If you do this, remember to make the change each time you add or purchase new music, or you'll have music by some artists listed out of order, or even twice.

CLEANING UP YOUR ITUNES LIBRARY

Like children, or weeds, an iTunes library has the tendency to grow and grow. Your Mac's internal storage does not. iTunes 12 segments your media in a way that makes it easy to forget you have a bunch of audiobooks, podcasts or old TV shows in your library that probably don't need there anymore. But iTunes also makes it easy to back that media up in another location, so it's safe to delete and free up space on your Mac.

OFFLOADING AUDIOBOOKS

Q: I have so many audiobooks that I'm wondering if I could remove some of them from my iTunes library and hold them in a folder somewhere on my iMac?

A: You sure can. And audiobooks are good candidates for removal from your iTunes library, because you're less likely to want to listen to them again for a while, unlike music.

What I'd suggest is that you start by making a new, empty playlist and then drag to that playlist everything you want to remove from your iTunes library.

Next, create a folder in the Finder for either your audiobooks, or all iTunes content that you're planning to remove from your library. (If you're removing different types of content, you can also make sub-folders by media type.) You may want to put this folder on an external drive to recover space on your Mac's internal storage device.

Drag the items from the playlist you created in iTunes to the folder (or subfolder) you created above; you'll see that each file is copied (or moved) to the folder. They're moved if the folder is on the same hard drive as your iTunes Media folder, and they're copied if the folder is on a different drive.

Once you've copied everything, check that all the files are in the folder, select all the items in the playlist and then press Command-Option-Delete. If iTunes asks if you want to keep the files or move them to the Trash, choose the latter.

You can do this for any files that are taking up space in your iTunes library. You can move TV shows, movies, music or apps you don't use to another folderor to another drive.

REMOTE APP MISSING ARTWORK

Q: When I play music on my iMac, I am often away from my desk, but well within earshot of my speaker system. It is convenient to use my iPhone to see what is playing, and I use the Remote app for this. Prior to iOS 8, the app would display the artwork for the currently playing track, but it no longer does this. Is there a setting that I am overlooking?

A: It seems that this is a bug that's been in iOS since the release of iOS 8, but that only affects certain devices. I had expected it to be fixed in one of the iOS updates – such as this week's iOS 8.2 – but it hasn't been yet.

The Remote app displays a text placeholder where the album art is.

However, if you tap Up Next, you'll see thumbnails of the artwork for the coming tracks.

It does work on some devices, such as my iPod touch (5th generation) and my non-retina iPad mini. I don't know why this is the case.

A GENIUS FOR ALL SEASONS

Q: I like to use Genius Mix playlists in iTunes 12, but there's one catch. Whenever iTunes generates these playlists, it incorporates my holiday music into the selections. Is there a way to prevent Genius Mixes from including certain items? I don't want to listen to Christmas songs in the summer.

A: Just as you can't exclude items from iTunes Match, you can't tell Genius only to look at certain songs. You can move your holiday music out of your iTunes library during the part of the year when you don't want to hear it. A question above explains how to do this.

CAN'T BUY ME PLAYLIST LOVE

Why, for the love of mix tapes, would Apple remove the ability to gift a playlist? Has it no sense of romance? Does it not understand the power of a thoughtfully compiled and gifted set of songs? There are loves that wouldn't have blossomed... Babies that wouldn't have been born... Road trips that would have been totally lame... if it weren't for homemade music compilations.

I heard that at one point in 1985
Gorbachev was minutes away from pushing the big red button, but
Reagan sent him a killer mix tape of mostly rare Erasure bootlegs. Today those kinds of surprises are nearly impossible. So, now, I'm supposed to share a playlist with someone, send her a gift card, and hope she'll apply it to the playlist? I'm sure her heart will be all aflutter. I hope they bring it back. For the children's sake. There's simply no telling what kind of damage has already been done.

Eight timesaving tips for Office for iPad

ot too long ago, using Microsoft's Office apps on any iOS device was nothing more than a far-fetched dream. Then the team in Redmond rocked the iOS world by releasing its Office suite for the iPad. There was a glaring issue with it, however, in the fact you could only view documents for free. To edit existing documents or create new ones, you needed to shell out for an Office 365 account.

Then in November, Microsoft surprised everyone once again by releasing an update that made editing documents part of the free set of features. Since then, I've spent plenty of time kicking the tyres of the suite on my iPad and iPhone and learned some helpful tips for boosting your mobile productivity.

ADD YOUR DROPBOX ACCOUNT

Dropbox and file sharing go hand in hand. Naturally you'll want to access your Dropbox files within Word, Excel or PowerPoint. There are two easy methods for connecting Office to Dropbox. Either tap your profile picture, then Add a Service; or tap the Open tab on the left side of the screen, then Add a Place. Select Dropbox from the list in either place, and grant permission for the app to access your files.

It's important to note that you'll need to do this with each Office app you plan on using with Dropbox.

OPEN FROM DROPBOX, EDIT IN OFFICE

You can even start from the Dropbox app. While browsing your files there,

you can send them to the Office apps for editing. Just open an Office-compatible document for viewing, and then tap the Edit button in the lower-right corner. The document opens in its proper app, and you can make changes and then save it right back to your Dropbox account.

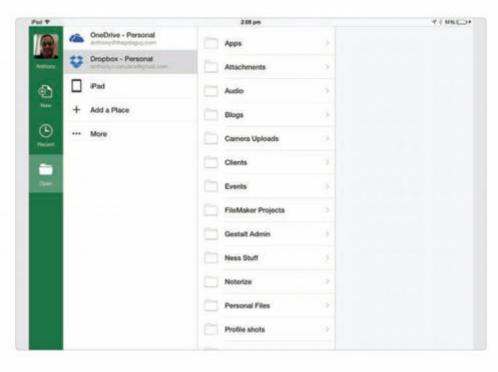
KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

One thing I love about using an external iPad keyboard is taking advantage of the same keyboard shortcuts I know and love on my Mac. Office for iPad has plenty, and Microsoft has lists for Word (go.macworld.com/shortword), Excel (go.macworld.com/shortexcel) and PowerPoint (go.macworld.com/shortpp). Take a while to peruse them, but they should immediately seem familiar – cut, copy, paste, select all and undo are among the shortcuts that will immediately speed up your workflow.

You'll even find shortcuts for navigating your documents using, say, Option and the arrow keys to move the cursor up and down by a paragraph in Word. It may seem weird at first to navigate with the keyboard's arrow keys when you could just reach out and touch the iPad's screen. But if you're used to reaching for these shortcuts on your Mac's keyboard, using them on your iPad's external keyboard will have you feeling right at home.

SAVE LOCAL COPIES

Storing a document in the cloud is fine and dandy, as long as you know you're going to have a data connection of some sort. If you have a



big presentation coming up, don't let something like a broken Wi-Fi network ruin it for you.

SAVE THE DOCUMENT TO YOUR IOS DEVICE AS A BACKUP

To do this, while viewing the file you want to save, tap on the document icon with the two arrows making a circle. It's what I consider to look like a refresh icon. From the list of options, select Duplicate and then choose your device from the list of storage options.

AUTOFILL IN EXCEL

Typing a long list of repetitive dates, numbers etc – repetitive anything, really – into your Excel spreadsheet is a hassle. Thankfully, the timesaving Autofill feature from the desktop version has made it into Excel on iOS.

Start by filling in the first two cells, setting the pattern for Excel to understand. Then highlight the two cells, bringing up the copy menu where you'll find the Fill option. Tap on it and then drag the proper arrow in the direction you'd like to continue the sequence. When you lift up your finger, the cells are filled automatically.

MATCH FORMATTING

Even when an app is touch-optimised, repeating tasks can be a bit taxing and tedious, and that definitely includes trying to match formatting between sections of your document.

Start by highlighting a block of text with the format you want to reproduce, and tap Copy in the pop-up. Next, highlight the text you want to apply the formatting to, and select Paste Formatting from the list of options. Too easy.

FREAKING LASER BEAMS

OK, so there are actually no lasers to be found in the Office apps. There is, however, a fake laser buried within PowerPoint's presentation mode. While presenting, presumably from your iPad to an Apple TV or projector, you can tap and hold on the device's screen to bring up a fake laser icon that moves around under your finger.





HOW TO DESIGN YOUR OWN GREAT-LOOKING BUSINESS CARDS

Your business card speaks volumes about how professional you are. We look at the design points that could make or break your next client contact. Just like the clothes you wear, your business card tells the recipient if you're professional, artistic or a big ol' ball of cheese. Aside from the aesthetic message, you've also got to pack a tonne of info into a tiny-teeny space and keep it readable. To put your best business card forward, try following these essential design tips.

PICK A PRINTER

The first step in designing your own business cards is to pick a printer. There are online resources aplenty. Most of these services have web-based design widgets, though you can upload your own designs, too.

Check the printer's website for document specifications such as size, resolution, colour mode and which file format to submit (vector-based PDFs keep your text nice and crisp). Better yet, see if they've got a template that you can download and customise.

USE IMAGERY

A picture is worth a thousand words and that's true for business cards, too. If you're promoting a service that you perform – think lawyers, consultants, therapists – include your photo on the front of the card, just like a savvy real estate agent would. If you create a product, use a photo of that. If you're a photographer, place your best photo on the front of the card and your second best on the back. If you're a travel agent, use photos of the locations you book. For more on designing with imagery, see this column (go.macworld.com/imagery).

ALIGNMENT

When many Western folk read, their eyes enter the piece at the top left, move right, and then move down. Try placing a photo or logo on the left and your contact info on the right. Since the line width of your contact info will vary, opt for right alignment near the right edge of the card.

USE AN EMAIL ADDRESS THAT INCLUDES YOUR URL

Unless you're designing a personal card for friends, use an email address that includes your website domain.

Nothing screams 'startup' as loudly as

an email address that ends in hotmail. com, yahoo.com or even gmail.com. If your email address includes your URL, you don't have to include it elsewhere in the design!

SPACING

Adjust the spacing between lines of text so that related items are closer together than unrelated items. For example, instead of putting equal space between each piece of contact info, put less space between your name and title, less space between the lines of your address, less space between phone numbers and so on. Rather than using blank lines to control space, use your app's line spacing, leading or space before and space after paragraph controls.

If necessary, adjust the spacing between individual letters by using your app's character spacing or kerning controls. Pay special attention to numbers – they often have ugly spacing!

USE COLOURED TEXT

While it's important to keep text readable, it doesn't have to be black. If you're designing on a white or light-coloured background, try using charcoal grey. Even better, snatch a dark colour from the logo or photo

you're using – this trick creates consistency by utilising colours that are already in your design.

If you're designing on a dark-coloured background, use a very light colour instead of pure white to keep contrast down. Colourising certain bits of text is also a great way to draw attention to them. For example, if you prefer to be contacted by phone rather than email(!), colourise your phone number.

For more on choosing colours that go well together, see this column: go.macworld.com/color.

DANGEROUS DANGLING

While it's fine for a photo or other artistic background element to 'bleed' off a card's edges, your logo and contact info need breathing room, else they look as if they're about to fall off the card. To avoid this, incorporate an equal amount of space between each element and the card's edges (say, half a centimetre).

PICKING THE RIGHT FONT

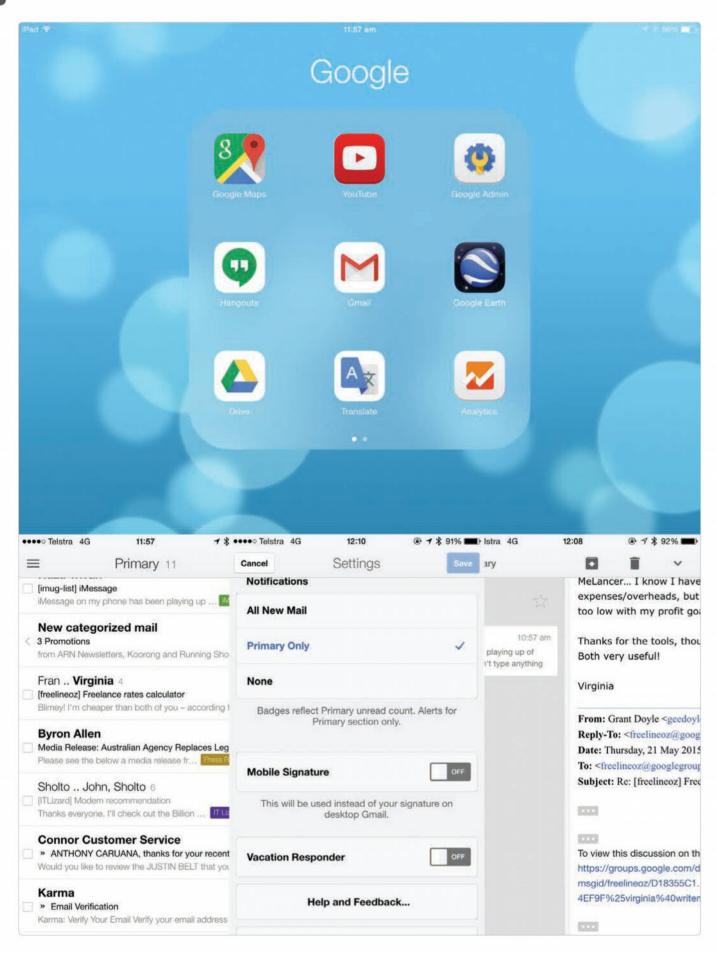
Sans-serif fonts such as Frutiger, Myriad, Arial and Helvetica are easier to read at small sizes because they lack the 'feet' of serif fonts like Times, Minion and Garamond. If you're placing light-coloured text atop a dark background, it's crucial to use a sansserif font, else the dark ink spreads into the letterforms and renders them unreadable. You can also add contrast to your card's text by using different font styles within the same font family (say, Myriad Bold with Myriad Light).

MATT VERSUS GLOSSY

People write on business cards all the time. For example, you may jot down a price quote, where you met the person, the document you're supposed to email to them and so on. While glossy business cards look slick, they're impossible to write on. Instead, opt for a matt finish.

By following these tips, your business cards will always look their best. Until next time, may the creative force be with you all.





Four awesome Gmail for iOS features

We look at four of our favourite new features of the recently revamped Gmail app for iOS.

here's more to the recently revamped Gmail app for iOS than pretty Material Design. It also comes with some new features that will make Google App users' lives much easier. You can respond to a message straight from Notification Center, open attachments in other apps and more. Read on for four Gmail tricks – some new, some old, all awesomely helpful.

SET AN OUT OF OFFICE RESPONDER

You can set an out of office reminder directly from the Gmail app – perfect for letting friends, loved ones, associates and co-workers know that you won't be replying for awhile.

Tap the menu button in the topleft corner of the page, then tap the Settings button (the one shaped like a gear) next to your email address.

Flip the Vacation Responder switch, then fill in the blanks – you know, start and end dates, subject line, message and so on. Tap the Save button.

Bonus tip: any holiday message you set in the web version of Gmail will automatically sync with the Vacation Responder settings for the Gmail app, and vice versa.

SHUSH AN ANNOYING EMAIL THREAD

Some group messages are helpful, but other times you'll find yourself wondering how you got thrown into a conversation that just won't fizzle out. Gmail makes it easy to 'mute' an annoying message thread – like the kind where everyone chimes in with a 'congrats!' or 'so cute!' or 'see you there'... over and over again.

Once muted, the thread won't appear in your inbox again, unless you're the only person in the To field.

To mute a thread: open it, tap the down-arrow menu in the top corner of the screen, then tap Mute.

Want to unmute a message? Search for 'is:muted', open the muted message you'd like to unmute, then move it back to the inbox. That'll clear the thread's Muted label, and you'll once again receive every message sent to the group.

SWIPE BETWEEN MESSAGE THREADS

Here's a handy little Gmail feature that's easy to miss. Want to read the next message thread in your inbox? No need to tap the Back button to return to the inbox screen. Instead, just swipe from right to left (for older threads) or left to right (for more recent threads).

ATTACH BIG GOOGLE DRIVE FILES TO YOUR MESSAGES

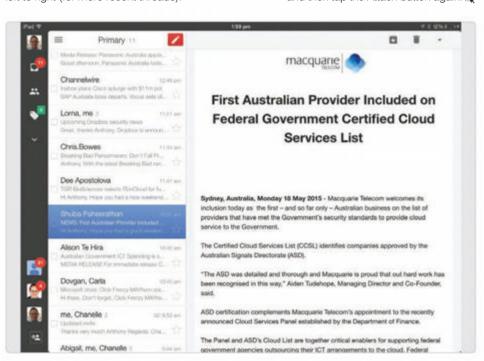
With a little help from Google Drive, you can send a massive file to a friend via email or deliver a large batch of files.

Don't have a Google Drive account? Well, if you're using Gmail, you've actually got one already (go.macworld.com/drive).

First, you'll need to load the files you want to send into Google Drive. Open your Google Drive account, then drag the file you want to send onto the webpage. The file should begin uploading automatically.

Next, open the Gmail app, compose a new message or reply to an existing one, tap the Attach button (it looks like a paperclip) and then tap Insert from Drive.

Find the file you want to send, tap it and then tap the Attach button again.



YOU CAN ASK THE MACWORLD AUSTRALIA TEAM ANY MAC- OR APPLE-RELATED QUESTIONS BY EMAILING EDITOR@MACWORLD.COM.AU.
ANSWERS THIS MONTH BY GLENN FLEISHMAN.

STM READER TIP

Important for blind or vision impaired people – accessing audio described DVDs on a Mac computer.

I was recently very excited to discover that I could play audio described DVDs on my Apple computer. After inserting a DVD into my MacBook Pro and expecting my wife to have to help me turn on the audio description, I was shocked to find that I was actually able to do this independently, without having to rely on sighted assistance.

I sat back and waited until the computer loaded the DVD, which in this case was a film called Valentine's Day. The film loaded through the program DVD player that comes with all Apple computers.

After the DVD began to play, I pushed the space bar while having VoiceOver on. This paused the movie, so I could just hear what VoiceOver was saying. I then pushed the VoiceOver keys along with the letter M, which took me up to the menu. I scrolled along the menus until I came to a tab saying 'Feature', where I was presented with a pull-down menu, which I accessed by using the down arrow and VoiceOver keys.

I kept moving down the menu until I came to a sub-menu labelled 'Audio', which listed a number of different audio tracks that were included on the DVD, one of which was 'English for the vision impaired'. After selecting this option, I restarted the movie and was shocked to find that I had been successful in turning on audio description. I now watch audio described movies on my Mac all the time and wanted to share this trick with other people who are blind or vision impaired. Happy viewing.

Phillip Chalker

EACH MONTH, STM gives a prize to the *Macworld Australia* reader who submits the best and most useful tip (undocumented tips preferred). This month's prize is a comfortable and portable STM sequel small laptop shoulder bag worth \$99.95.

Your daily gear travels in sleek protective style. The sequel is the perfect, just the essentials bag for your 13in laptop, tablet, a couple of files, cords and chargers.

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- front zippered stealth pocket is lined and accessible without opening main flap – perfect for sunnies or a phone
- dedicated tablet slip pocket with soft nylex lining
- organisational front pocket for biz cards, pens, keys, etc
- slip rear pocket for some reading material with quick drop phone pocket
- luggage pass through secures the bag to the handle of your wheeled travel piece
- padded, non-slip shoulder pad for a comfortable carry
- quick cam-adjust shoulder strap for both cross body and shoulder carries, and
- water resistant 320D brushed poly main fabric with 640D reinforced bottom fabric



OLD iMOVIE, NEW MAC
I have 2006-era iMovie
projects, but the latest version
of iMovie won't import them. Is
it still possible to obtain older
versions to refresh the files, as I
want to produce DVDs I can pass
on to my kids? There must be
someone who has archived all the
program versions for Macs over
the years. Any ideas about how I
can retrieve these files?

Karl Hess

I consulted friend, colleague, and frequent *Macworld* contributor Jeff Carlson, who has written extensively in the past about iMovie. He says that while Apple used to offer iMovie HD 6 as a free download for people who didn't want to shift to iMovie '08, that's no longer the case. (I'd avoid non-Apple sites that offer it free; you have no way to determine whether the disk



image has been tampered with.) And the current iMovie (version 10) can't import iMovie HD 6 projects.

One strategy is to find someone who has an older, working Mac with iMovie '08 installed, import your project there, then copy it to your computer. iMovie HD also works on OS X up to Mavericks if you can get a copy to install. The latest iMovie (version 10) can import versions 7 (which Apple called iMovie '08), 8 ('09), and 9 ('11). There's a host of provisos from Apple (go.macworld. com/host) just about the limitations of importing into version 10, so it may require a fair amount of rework. (You can also find the version number by selecting iMovie in the Applications folder, choosing File Get Info, and referring to the version number under the General section.)

Jeff says that although this may not be welcome advice, re-editing the original clips – which Karl should have because they're part of an iMovie project – may be the best strategy and involve the least work. (For an old project, right-click and you'll see Show Package Contents. Choose that, and all the clips that were imported are nested in folders.)

The other question, however, about producing DVDs – let's join that with another reader's query about putting photos on DVD.

DVDS AND TIMES GONE BY

I'd like to make a slide show of holiday snaps that I can transfer to DVD, which I've been able to do in the past. How do I do this without iDVD?

Lyn Cuneo

With the demise of iDVD as supported software, Lyn will need to turn to a third-party solution; iDVD used to act as a conduit. Likewise for Karl, and his movies.

My Mac 911 predecessor, Chris Breen, pointed to a few options



(go.macworld.com/chris) that are still valid, including getting an old copy of iLife that included iDVD and installing it under Mavericks. (I haven't tried running iDVD in Yosemite because... I don't have it installed anywhere. Some reports indicate it won't work.)

For photos, you can use any version of iPhoto to export a slideshow as a movie. Select an album or event in iPhoto, then File Export and click the Slideshow tab. For DVD, Standard Definition is all that's needed. Then with iDVD (if available), Toast 12 Titanium or Burn (all mentioned in Chris' article), you can push that slideshow to a playable disc.

In 2015, however, while it's a reasonable choice to use a DVD to make something ephemeral, you want to share with people who may or may not have broadband internet access, it's no longer a good archival format. That is, sharing holiday photos so a relative can pop it into a DVD player works, but if you expect the disc to be a family heirloom, not so much.

Jeff Carlson notes that DVDs have low resolution relative to most video produced in the last several years, as well as compared to the resolution of cameras in the last decade. Blu-ray is much higher resolution, but the problem of media persists. Discs don't last forever, and the writable kinds are highly variable in their long-term readability.



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www.anyware.com.au

Find a 10-year-old CD-R, and pop it in – does it still work? Maybe. But discs degrade even in perfect humidity and temperature control, and more rapidly in garages or attics.

So what to do? Backup drives (more than one) that you rotate and retire, secure cloud storage and distribution of digital assets to people you want to have them. CDs, DVDs and Blu-rays – they're not as good as paper books, which have much less spinning and flash media.

AS MANY AS THERE ARE GRAINS OF SAND ON THE BEACH

My Mac used to have fewer than a million files (according to various tools, including SuperDuper!) and now it's to 1.3 million. Trust me, I haven't knowingly created 300,000 new files recently! Those zillions of stray files don't seem to consume much space, but tools like SuperDuper! and Disk Utility 'verify disk' need to process each and every one of them in one way or another. What are they? Where are they?

Doug Eldred

Mac OS X (and, invisibly, iOS) has always had an inordinate quantity of files because of its Unix underpinnings. There is something about Unix that loves a multiplicity of tiny files rather than monolithic larger ones, hence these huge counts.

Long ago, it used to matter, because each file consumed a minimum amount of hard disk space regardless of the actual amount of data in it, and no more than 65,536 files on the drive. With HFS+, however, a drive can have nearly 4.3 billion files without each consuming unreasonable amounts of space.

To my recollection and experience, the number of files shouldn't contribute to any system slowdowns, because they're inert unless needed. But during the cases that Doug mentions, could



it cause delays? And why are all these files being created, anyway?

I turned to an expert: Dave Nanian, the founder of Shirt Pocket (shirt-pocket.com), which is the maker of the SuperDuper! app (shirt-pocket.com/superduper) that Doug uses. SuperDuper! is a disk backup utility that makes an exact, bootable clone of a drive. I have it scheduled to run every night on my main computer, in addition to two other forms of incremental document backup.

Dave writes: "Ah, 1.3 million files. I remember those early days, back when laptops were made of plastic, and chips by IBM. But today, you're not alone. The laptop I'm typing on right now has - according to Disk Utility - 6,709,682 files. Make that, two seconds later, 6,709,687. In general, especially if you're not seeing excessive disk usage, this just isn't something to worry about. There are a lot of hidden folders on your drive - sometimes entire hierarchies that are emulating things that can't be directly expressed in HFS+, but are still counted as 'files', even though you wouldn't ever access them that way.

Apple implemented Time Machine in a very peculiar way by most developers' reckoning to create an exact copy without duplicating every file. Using so-called hard links, which allow a single copy of data to appear multiple times in a folder hierarchy, Time Machine creates hidden folders that fully replicate a hard disk's file structure. A Time Machine backup comprises mostly hard links pointing to existing

files or folders unchanged since the previous backup. Each hard link is counted by OS X as a separate file.

"Time Machine also stores a sort of local backup on the startup drive to improve its performance in copying to a local drive or a remote one over the network. Most other backup software makes an initial copy of a file and then a 'delta' or a kind of summary of differences, for every version stored thereafter.

"And Spotlight contributes to the file count. For better indexing, Mac apps have reference files for each quantum of data, such as an email message, to match a result up with an item. On one machine, I have hundreds of thousands of metadata files associated with email messages. Combine Spotlight and Time Machine, and you can see where the file count comes from. I don't use Time Machine and have nearly 1.8 million files on my MacBook Air."

Dave has consoling words, though: "I wouldn't worry about it too much – let the system handle its files, and don't be too concerned about the count. As long as your drive isn't mysteriously filling up, you're good."

SELECTIVE TIME MACHINE

When I reinstall Mac OS X (to solve performance problems or clear space) I have a restore option to migrate data from my Time Capsule, but it currently only gives me options to migrate entire user profiles, applications and settings.

How am I able to pull only selected data (such as images, iTunes media like music and movies, and documents) rather than an entire profile? I fear that restoring an entire profile may also restore any problems that made me want to reinstall OS X.

Larry Landen

It's a sensible and reasonable question: if some kind of corrupted or inaccurate setting is causing system problems, aren't you just asking for trouble by bringing all your settings over? Likely no. With the except of specific applications having corrupted configuration files, a clean installation and a migration of settings generally seems to avoid causing identical problems in OS X. (Solving corrupt

app settings varies, but often involves tossing a file or several from ~Library/ Preferences/ with the advice of the software's maker.)

That's in part because the corruption or other setting issues you're having can result from missing or overwritten system files or configurations that aren't copied back as part of a Time Machine migration.

With Migration Assistant, however, which you can launch on a computer after you've reinstalled and updated OS X, you can select certain sets of data (go.macworld.com/data) to re-import, and can omit all your settings.

Another option is to use SuperDuper! or Carbon Copy Cloner (bombich.com) to back up a volume, or software-service combinations like Backblaze or Crashplan for specific files or folders. Then you can more easily pick and choose what to restore.

PHOTOS! PHOTOS! PHOTOS!

Your questions about the new Photos app for OS X continue to pour in! With no new information since the last details from Apple, we'll let you know more when it's available. Plenty of issues are unclear, including how to prepare multiple photo libraries to import into a single Photos collection.

My best advice at this moment? When Photos for OS X ships, don't install it and upgrade immediately. It's going to be a big shift, and you're better off waiting to read reports on what goes wrong or even waiting for a 1.0.1 🙉



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Streaming TV services

Video on demand is here! ADAM TURNER has spent many hours on his couch looking for the best of the new wave of streaming services.

Netflix

High-def streaming and a slick Apple TV app make Netflix the pick of the bunch for Apple fans.

Unlike its local rivals, Netflix doesn't limit your number of registered devices, just the number of simultaneous streams. The \$8.99 per month plan allows a single SD stream, while \$11.99 lets two people watch HD streams simultaneously. The \$14.99 plan supports four Ultra HD streams – but you'll need a new Netflix Ultra HD-compatible television and 15 Mbps download speeds to make the most of this.

Regardless of your download speeds, Netflix offers impressive results. Its adaptive streaming delivers the best possible picture and sound for your connection, with surprisingly good HD results even on sub-5 Mbps broadband. Netflix streaming doesn't count towards your monthly home download limit if you're with Optus, iiNet or its subsidiaries such as Internode.

Unlimited device support is handy because you'll find a Netflix app for handheld gadgets along with a wide range of internet-enabled home entertainment gear. You can easily pick up watching where you left off when you jump between devices.

When it comes to content, you've got access to Netflix Originals such as *House of Cards*, *Marco Polo* and *Daredevil*, but you won't find anything from the HBO back catalogue because the two are arch rivals. Busy households can create multiple user profiles within the one Netflix account.

The Australian Netflix library isn't just a subset of the US library, we actually see some movies and TV shows they don't. It's not hard to sneak into the US Netflix library for extra viewing options, but unmetering deals won't apply.





FROM \$8.99 PER MONTH / NETFLIX

www.netflix.com.au

PROS Exclusive content; wide device support; HD/ Ultra HD streaming

CONS No HBO content

Quickflix

Support for a wide range of home entertainment devices makes Quickflix a worthy rival to foreign raider Netflix.

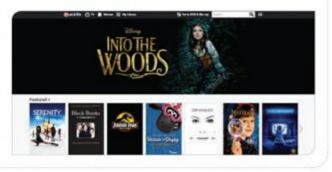
Quickflix fought a clandestine war against US Netflix for several years before Netflix officially launched in Australia. The local pioneer is certainly feeling the pressure from the wave of new competition, but Quickflix offers greater flexibility than local rivals Stan and Presto.

You can register up to six devices to your Quickflix account and stream to three simultaneously. Like Netflix, you'll find browser access along with apps for handheld devices, Smart TVs, Blu-ray players, games consoles and Google Chromecast. You can also watch on TiVo PVRs and an Apple TV app is on the roadmap. Unfortunately, there's no built-in support for Airplay streaming from Apple gadgets. You can use screen mirroring, but the results aren't great.

It can't boast the exclusive content deals of its rivals, but it's struck a deal with Presto. Quickflix does offer the option of pay-per-view, letting you pay extra to watch new movies and TV shows that aren't yet in the subscription library.

Quickflix has no way to easily pick up where you left off when switching between devices, but this may change with a significant overhaul coming soon.

You can pay extra each month for unlimited Quickflix DVD rentals via the post, which reduces the strain on your broadband plan and also offers a lot more content that isn't in the streaming subscription library. Quickflix doesn't have unmetered deals with any Australian ISPs, so the data you chew through counts towards your monthly usage limit.





FROM \$9.99 PER MONTH / QUICKFLIX www.quickflix.com.au

PROS Wide device support; HD streaming

CONS No unmetering



Presto

Offering new movies and TV shows sooner than its competitors, Presto is a tempting option for homes looking to spend less on movie rentals.

Backed by Foxtel and the Seven Network, Presto relies on a different pricing model to the others. For \$9.99 per month you get access to either the TV library or the movie library, while \$14.99 per month gets you both. Presto initially offered live streaming channels, but they were scrapped.

In return for a higher price tag Presto offers more recent movies than its rivals, movies that are generally still pay-perview elsewhere. Presto subscribers also benefit from Foxtel's relationship with HBO; for example, Presto offers Boardwalk Empire seasons 1 and 2 on subscription, while season 2 is still pay-per-view over at Quickflix.

You won't see new episodes of HBO blockbusters like Game of Thrones in Presto's subscription library, for this you'll need Foxtel – either a home subscription or Foxtel Play online. You can buy episodes of Game of Thrones from Quickflix, iTunes, Google Play and EzyFlix, but not until Foxtel has finished screening the entire season (last year Apple made us wait for months).

Presto offers both iPhone and iPad apps, with the ability to pick up where you left off when jumping between devices. You can stream to your television using Google's Chromecast and Samsung smart TVs are on the roadmap. There's no Airplay Apple TV support, not even via screen mirroring.

Unfortunately, Presto is the least generous of the bunch in terms of device support. You can only register four devices with your account and stream to two simultaneously. The data you chew through is unmetered if Telstra Bigpond or Foxtel Broadband are your ISP, but unfortunately Presto only offers standard-def streaming.



Stan

High-def streaming and exclusive access to shows like Breaking Bad prequel Better Call Saul may win some Aussies over to Stan.

Stan is backed by the Nine Network and Fairfax Media. You can register six devices with your account and stream to three simultaneously, although Stan has the most limited device support of the bunch. Apart from web browsers and handheld devices, your only other option to watch Stan is to stream to your television using Google's Chromecast or the Apple TV. Samsung smart TVs are on the roadmap.

With Stan's support for 720p and 1080p HD streaming, in theory the Chromecast is your best option for a crisp picture on your television. Whichever video service you're watching, Airplay streaming uses your iGadget as the middleman, whereas the Chromecast pulls the video straight from the content provider. This frees up your device to do other things and supposedly offers better picture quality, but in our tests Airplay streaming looked much better. Chromecast streaming can be flaky, so your mileage may vary.

Stan's interface makes it easy to find the last show you were watching or see what's popular. You can create multiple viewer profiles, which, unlike Netflix, are protected with a PIN. You can also use a PIN to enforce rating restrictions for children, a feature also offered by Presto and Quickflix but not Netflix.

Eventually Stan intends to commission its own Australian content, but for now its major selling point is a handful of exclusive content deals and a healthy back catalogue of movies and TV shows - helped by its relationship with Nine plus deals with SBS and the BBC.

Stan doesn't have unmetered deals with any Australian ISPs, so the data you chew through counts towards your monthly usage limit. 🔣



FROM \$9.99 PER MONTH / PRESTO

www.presto.com.au

PROS Newer and exclusive content

CONS More expensive; no HD



\$10 PER MONTH / STAN

www.stan.com.au

PROS Exclusive content; HD streaming

CONS Limited device support; no unmetering

Freedome VPN – protection for your connection



Open network connections are a great convenience, but can expose you to all sorts of online risks. Freedome VPN, from F-Secure, provides a safe way to use public, open networks.

nce we installed the application – it requires an administrative account to set up – we were ready to secure our connection. The main configuration options are whether the application is active or not, and choosing which country you want your computer to connect to the internet through.

Once active, all internet traffic is routed through the service. That can slow down your connection.

We'd only use Freedome, or any VPN (virtual private network) service, when connected to an open network such as in a café or airport. There's no need to use a VPN on a safe network, unless you're trying to mask your location.

Freedome monitors three things when it's running: the volume of traffic going through the connection, the number of harmful sites blocked and how many tracking attempts it blocks. The first two metrics are self-explanatory. The third is about protecting you from hackers, advertisers and data tracking companies.

We first tested Freedome at San Francisco Airport using the free Wi-Fi. We were able to save documents to Dropbox, browse the web, collect and send email and use messaging apps. If there was any impact on performance, we didn't notice it.

With Freedome active using a connection to F-Secure's West Coast

VPN servers, we recorded download speeds averaging around 5 Mbps and uploads clocked at about half that speed. When we turned Freedome's protection off, we were surprised to find upload and download speeds were consistent at 3 Mbps.

It's worth noting that we did run the tests multiple times at San Francisco and the first test we did delivered a whopping 9.32 Mbps for downloads, driving the average up in our three tests. Excluding that exceptional result brings the average to around 4 Mbps.

Carrying out the same tests from LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) on a much faster network, Speedtest revealed downloads at 20 Mbps and uploads of 16 Mbps with Freedome enabled. When we turned Freedome off, download performance increased by around 25 percent to 24 Mbps. Upload performance almost tripled.

At home, we conducted a test at our local McDonald's on its open Wi-Fi. F-Secure has a point of presence in Melbourne. That's important when looking at VPN software, as some don't have servers in Australia. As a result, performance can be degraded to the point of becoming unusable.

Without Freedome activated, we were able to achieve connections of 4 Mbps and 0.4 Mbps for download and upload respectively. That fell to 3.3 Mbps and 0.3 Mbps with the VPN activated.

Using a VPN service can make a significant difference to your threat profile when connected to open, unsecured networks. It's important to understand that all VPN services will have an impact on network performance and, at any point in time, the VPN service is just one of several factors that can have an impact on network performance.

Our testing found Freedome slowed performance. However, on a fast connection, that impact is less noticeable.

What it comes to is whether you're prepared to trade performance for safety. You can make a car faster by removing parts to make it lighter. But you may compromise safety. The same goes with your internet access. You can make it safer, but that means adding something.

In our view, Freedome is a solid solution. Although it's still officially in beta, it works reliably and protected our connection on open networks.

- ANTHONY CARUANA



PROS Easy to set up; works in Australia

CONS Impacts performance

FREE FOR 14 DAYS, FROM €40



ith a 1TB hard drive, the iQ3 has the capacity to record up to 172 hours of high-def content from subscription channels and free-to-air. You'll squeeze in 345 hours if you dial down the picture quality to standard-def. The box can record three channels at once, including one free-to-air channel. You can also perform time-bending tricks like pausing and rewinding live television or watching the start of a movie while you're still recording the end.

The Foxtel cable service rebroadcasts all the free-to-air channels, but some are missing for satellite subscribers. Thankfully, the iQ3 satellite box features an aerial jack on the back for tuning in to those missing free-to-air channels.

The iQ3's biggest advancement is tighter integration with Foxtel's streaming content.

Like the iQ2, the new iQ3 offers a 'Look Back' reverse EPG (electronic program guide), which lets you scroll back up to 24 hours in the on-screen guide to stream shows you've missed. Not every show is available, but it's far more comprehensive than the FreeviewPlus equivalent.

Look Back offers some high-def streaming if you're paying for the HD package. Foxtel recommends minimum download speeds of 3 Mbps for standard-def and 5 Mbps for high-def.

New to the iQ3 is 'Start Over'. If you tune in halfway through a movie or TV show, you can jump back to the start and watch it streamed from the internet in standard-def. You can even fast-forward through the advertisements until you catch up to the live broadcast. It's not available for every show. As with Look Back, a small play icon in the on-screen guide indicates that it's available to stream.

You can also use the iQ3's Anytime menu to search through the on-demand Catch Up library. All your streaming data is unmetered if Bigpond or Foxtel Broadband is your ISP.

As with Foxtel's old iQ2, it's possible to control the iQ3 using the Foxtel Go app for the iPhone and iPad. The app also grants you streaming access to the live channels in your Foxtel package, along with Catch Up content from those channels. You can't watch live free-to-air television, only the Foxtel channels.

The iQ3's remote control relies on Bluetooth rather than infrared, so it should work around corners. Thankfully, the iQ3 box retains an IR (infrared) receiver, so it can still work with your universal remote control.

Along with the Foxtel Go app, there's also a Foxtel Guide app, which makes it easier to browse the entire program guide over the coming week. The app can also schedule recordings, including Series Links, and change the channel on the iQ3. If you live in a major city, the app lets you schedule recordings on free-to-air channels, but this option is missing for regional viewers.

Bottom line. If you're catering to the entertainment needs of a busy household, then it's certainly worth paying extra for an iQ3, so you can make the most of your Foxtel subscription. The slick iPhone and iPad apps are the icing on the cake. The only major disappointment is that only Look Back streaming is in high-definition, but hopefully this will improve with time.

- ADAM TURNER

\$\$\$\$\$ FO WW

FOXTEL www.foxtel.com.au

PROS Catch Up streaming; iOS remote scheduling

CONS Most streaming content is standard-def

\$125 + \$25 DELIVERY OR \$75 INSTALLED





BIAS FX

've just taken a test drive with the newly released BIAS FX, the latest offering from San Diego outfit
Positive Grid. This is a state-of-the-art guitar amp and effects processor, which builds on the company's previous products JamUp Pro and BIAS (now known as BIAS Amp). I've been rapt with the way these two have added a full range of professional sounds to my live gigs.

The first thing that hit me with BIAS FX was the look. The graphics of amp heads, effect pedals and racks have a stunning level of reality I haven't seen before in a guitar app. And I've reviewed guite a few.

To access the 32 factory presets I'm using the Live View function, which shows me the rigs four at a time with comfortably large buttons – very handy for doing quick switches on stage. The presets showcase a wide range of sounds and setups from gentle acoustic through clean pop to raucous grunge. Many of them are a little bit too heavy for my repertoire, but there are two quick fixes for this: 1. Modify one of the presets 2. Log into ToneCloud and choose from a range of presets in 12 genres from acoustic to rock. Let's check out option 1 first.

With each factory preset the lower half of the screen shows a realistic amp head with rotating dials, which I can use to change volume and tone. The upper screen shows a traditional signal chain with effect modules in place on either side of the amp. I can drag these to different positions in the chain, drag them out of the chain and drag in others. But

it doesn't end there. Each module is fully customisable, exactly like the real thing, with rotating knobs. If I can't get the sound I want, then I just ain't trying. I actually spent five minutes with one particular pedal and came up with a whole range of different sounds.

At the time of writing, the ToneCloud option for BIAS FX had only been opened to users for a few days, but it already has a variety of interesting setups. Based on my experience with the Share function in JamUp Pro, it shouldn't be long before I've got more choice than I need, as users upload their lovingly crafted presets. Once again I look for something approximating a sound that I'm after, download and then finetune to suit if necessary. If I'm really happy with my efforts, I can upload it with a different name to ToneCloud to repay the favour.

There is even a third option. Full integration with BIAS Amp means I can go back there and build a fully customised amp from the ground up, which I can then use as the basis for a new preset in BIAS FX.

And there are the sounds. Just as BIAS Amp added to the capabilities of JamUp Pro, BIAS FX takes things up to a new level. Having cut my teeth in the music business in the 1960s with valve amps and crude FX pedals, this gear is rock nirvana. Delay, distortion, modulation and reverb never sounded so authentic to my ears. And the new dual amp setup complete with splitter and mixer is something I really need to explore.

For the more technically minded, BIAS FX offers the following:

- 25 high quality effect pedals with new sound-processing algorithms
- five professional rack processors
- 12 classic amps, with option to import amp models from BIAS Amp
- dual signal path and dual amp processing
- Live View mode, which selects presets with a single tap and allows toggle on/off of all included effects
- Pedalboard View, which shows all the effects and amps in the currently loaded preset, and
- Inter App Audio compatibility, which allows insertion of other Inter App Audio apps in any place in the BIAS FX signal path.

When I think how all of this gear would have cost thousands of dollars and filled the stage in the old days.

Now it all bursts out of my iPad.

If you don't already own a guitar/FX app, then BIAS FX is worth your serious consideration. There's nothing better around.

- KEITH WHITE



BIAS

www.positivegrid.com/bias-fx/

PROS Stunning graphics; infinite range of customisable sounds

CONS No play along facility from iTunes; factory presets biased towards distorted sounds

\$37.99



Skulpt

e have to admit we're a little bit addicted to fitness equipment. Apps, fitness bands, smart scales – you name it, we want them. So, when the Skulpt caught our eye, we really wanted to try it.

The Skulpt is a device that measures your body fat percentage and muscle quality. It does this via a sensor device that you hold against various parts of your body – sensors that employ electrical impedance myography (EIM). A very weak high-frequency and alternating electrical current is passed between the outer two electrodes. As the current moves through the skin, the subcutaneous fat and the muscle, it loses energy due to the resistance of the tissue. This change is then measured by the two inner electrodes. Muscle fibres briefly store and release the electrical charge and this confers a short time delay on the measured voltage on the inner electrodes.

These measurements all help the Skulpt to measure the amount of fat you're carrying and the quality of your muscle mass.

In the initial test, we were guided through collected data from four sites on the right side of our body: biceps, triceps, abdomen and quadriceps. We simply sprayed a little water on the back of the Skulpt to facilitate conductivity, held it against our skin and a few seconds later the data was collected. The full test took less than five minutes. We could get a more detailed report as the Skulpt can measure from over 20 different sites on the body.

The iOS app displays all the data collected clearly with nice graphs and pictures. The two main measures, body fat and muscle quality, are graded on a five-point scale that ranks you from 'Needs Work' to 'Sculpted'. There's a graph that tracks your progress over time for the two metrics.

The data is transmitted to an app via Bluetooth – the initial setup process is very simple using the free iOS app – or displayed on the Skulpt's colour display. The device is controlled via three buttons. Two buttons on the right side allow you to scroll up and

down through options on the screen, while the button on the left side toggles the device on and off and acts as the 'select' button when scrolling through menus.

During the measurement process, the edge of the device glows red while measurement takes place and turns to green when the data is successfully collected.

It's quite difficult to verify the accuracy of the Skulpt's measurement. EIM was originally developed to assist with the treatment of people with neuromuscular disorders. When we compare the body fat measurements from the Skulpt with those from the Fitbit Aria scales we recently tested, they are consistent with each other.

Our advice when it comes to measuring your body composition is to not get too hung up on the actual number and focus on trends. If your body fat is falling and muscle quality is increasing, then you're probably doing the right things.

We're already using a Fitbit Charge HR for tracking daily activity, a Nike+ SportWatch when we're out running, MyFitnessPal for tracking nutrition and a set of Fitbit Aria smart scales.

What we really want is a way for all of these data sources to work together. The Skulpt app, while excellent, doesn't send its data to any other services, making it hard to create a complete picture of our health, activity and nutrition.

If you're a health data junkie, the Skulpt is a simple device that delivers useful information in a clear and informative way.

- ANTHONY CARUANA

SKULPT www.skulpt.me

PROS Easy to set up and use; great app

CONS No integration with other health-related apps

US\$200

Garmin Vivosmart

Fitness tracking and notifications for less.

ith the Apple Watch now released, is there still a place in the market for another smartwatch? Garmin's latest entry into the field, the Vivosmart differentiates itself from Apple's offering by being a fitness tracker with smartphone features, rather than a smartwatch that also happens to track your activity.

The Vivosmart keeps tabs on your activity by covering the number of steps you take, steps remaining to your daily goal, distance covered, calories burned and time spent inactive.

The Vivosmart looks like a traditional fitness band too, a slim, soft rubberised band with smooth, rounded edges. I easily slept while wearing the Vivosmart – it's unobtrusive and extremely comfortable, and I usually forgot I was wearing it. I've worn it pretty much nonstop for several weeks and have never found it bothersome, even when typing on my laptop.

The Vivosmart is waterproof up to 50 metres, so you can wear it while swimming or in the shower. It fastens to your wrist with a pair of pegs that snap into holes along the band. An optional 'keeper' can be placed on the band to prevent it from unfastening, but this adds a degree of bulkiness I didn't care for. I removed it shortly after using the device and never had an issue with the strap coming undone.

CHARGING AHEAD

Garmin says the Vivosmart lasts up to seven days on a charge, and I easily surpassed that throughout my testing. It uses a proprietary USB charger that clamps onto the device like a clothespin.

The Vivosmart's LED display is invisible when not in use, and it's clear and bright when on, even in daylight. A simple double-tap wakes

the display; you navigate through the device's menus by swiping and tapping. In addition to fitness-related information, the Vivosmart shows you the time and date and even lets you control the music on your iPhone: play/pause, skip or repeat tracks. But you can't adjust the volume.

Lift the Vivosmart when you get a notification and you immediately realise the display is oriented sideways as you look at it, which makes it somewhat awkward to read anything longer than the time.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT... BUT YOU MAY NOT WANT IT

Once you've paired the Vivosmart to your iPhone or Android device via Bluetooth, a companion app descriptively called 'Connect' transfers your fitness data from the Vivosmart and displays it as gauges in sections for each type of measurement. The app doesn't really seem to enhance the Vivosmart.

The app also pairs with MyFitnessPal to keep track of how many calories you've consumed, measured against the Vivosmart's estimate of how many you've burned.

You can connect to other users to share and compare activities, and issue or accept challenges, but finding connections isn't intuitive and the social aspect doesn't seem well-thought out. More useful is the ability to use the app to adjust settings on the device, including a silent, vibrating alarm that's very effective in waking you up without disturbing a partner if you have one.

GET UP AND MOVE

The Vivosmart is more than just a fitness band, venturing into smartwatch territory. If it senses you've been inactive after an hour, an



unmistakable vibration and the band's display will tell you to "MOVE!" A few minutes of walking resets the timer.

The Vivosmart uses its Bluetooth connection notifications – anything that appears on your phone's Notification screen will also pop up on the Vivosmart's display, along with a short vibration to get your attention. You can't interact with the notifications; but you can scroll through them and decide whether they merit immediate action.

Bottom line. What's a fitness enthusiast with a geek streak to do? Ultimately, it comes down to which proclivity is stronger and what your budget will handle. The Vivosmart is not a smartwatch. Instead, it offers an alternative to the Apple Watch: a well-made, comfortable and useful fitness band with smart features. If that appeals to you, all those features are at about half the entry price of the Apple Watch.

- CHUCK LA TOURNOUS



GARMIN www.garmin.com

PROS Comfortable design; very long battery life; well implemented activity tracking and notifications

CONS Companion app doesn't provide much value; text orientation makes longer notifications hard to read

\$170



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